

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA

Travis Aguillard v. Amazon.com Services, LLC et al.

Aguillard · No. 3:25-670-SDD-SDJ · Decided May 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana grants Amazon.com Services, LLC's motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim in a personal-injury action arising from a medical episode experienced by an independent contractor at an Amazon warehouse. The court concludes that Amazon owed no duty to monitor for or promptly respond to the plaintiff's non-work-related medical emergency, and that the plaintiff failed to plausibly plead negligence, premises liability, negligent undertaking, or vicarious liability claims. The ruling addresses Louisiana duty-risk principles and the limits of duties owed by contractees and landowners to independent contractors.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Shelly D. Dick, Chief Judge
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana
DECIDED	May 29, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-670-SDD-SDJ
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought Louisiana negligence and negligence-per-se claims in state court after suffering injuries during a medical episode at Amazon's warehouse. Defendants removed under diversity jurisdiction. After plaintiff amended his complaint, Amazon moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) to dismiss the claims against it.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the court accepts well-pleaded facts as true and views them in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, but requires sufficient factual content to state a facially plausible claim. Legal conclusions and conclusory allegations are not accepted as true.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court opinion

PARTIES

Travis Aguillard v. Amazon.com Services, LLC, Universal Protection Service, LLC

TOPICS

motions to dismiss

duty of care

negligence

premises liability

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Torts

Civil procedure

Personal injury

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Aguillard plausibly alleged that Amazon owed him a legal duty under Louisiana negligence or premises-liability law to monitor its warehouse and detect or respond to a personal medical emergency.
2. Whether Amazon's installation and monitoring of alarms and its internal contractor-supervision policies constituted a negligent undertaking creating a duty to protect Aguillard.
3. Whether Aguillard could maintain a vicarious-liability claim against Amazon without alleging an independently actionable tort by an Amazon employee.
4. Whether amendment should be permitted after dismissal.

HOLDINGS

1. Amazon owed Aguillard no legal duty to inspect a door alarm or monitor his workstation for an unexpected, non-work-related medical emergency and to take steps to mitigate injuries resulting from that condition.
2. Aguillard failed to plausibly allege that Amazon affirmatively undertook services that created a duty to detect or respond to his personal medical emergency.
3. Aguillard failed to state a vicarious-liability claim because he did not allege that an Amazon employee committed an independently actionable tort.
4. Leave to amend was denied because the defect was legal and amendment would be futile.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To survive a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss, the plaintiff must plead ‘enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’”

“Each element of the duty/risk analysis is dispositive, in that, if any one element is not present, liability cannot result.”

“It is widely recognized in the field of tort law that [] courts do not impose a general duty to come to the aid of one who is in peril[;] that is, one will not be held legally liable for his inaction even though his assistance could have saved the injured party.”

“In the absence of such a duty-creating relationship, the general rule that no affirmative duty exists to care for another in medical distress applies to Amazon.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Travis Aguiard, an employee of Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc. and an independent contractor at Amazon's Port Allen, Louisiana warehouse, experienced an unexpected medical episode while performing maintenance work on August 10, 2024. He lost consciousness and convulsed while alone, triggering a door-security alarm. Aguiard alleged that Amazon managers and safety personnel were absent from their assigned positions, delaying discovery of the emergency and aid for nearly half an hour, during which he repeatedly struck his head and back. He alleged that Amazon's safety policies, alarm system, and supervision practices created duties to detect the emergency and render assistance.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed suit in Louisiana state court on October 7, 2024. Defendants removed the action to the Middle District of Louisiana under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). Plaintiff filed an amended complaint asserting negligence, negligent undertaking, vicarious liability, and premises-liability theories against Amazon. The court granted Amazon's motion to dismiss and dismissed the complaint with prejudice, concluding that amendment would be futile.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- In re Katrina Canal Breaches Litigation, 495 F.3d 191, 205 (5th Cir. 2007)
- Martin v. Eby Construction Co. v. Dallas Area Rapid Transit, 369 F.3d 464, 467 (5th Cir. 2004)
- Randall D. Wolcott, M.D., P.A. v. Sebelius, 635 F.3d 757, 763 (5th Cir. 2011)
- Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 545, 555-56 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 663, 678 (2009)
- Taha v. William Marsh Rice University, 2012 WL 1576099, at *2
- Southland Securities Corp. v. Inspire Insurance Solutions, Inc., 365 F.3d 353, 361 (5th Cir. 2004)
- Papasan v. Allain, 478 U.S. 265, 286 (1986)
- Johnson v. Evanston Insurance Co., 368 So. 3d 703, 711 (La. App. 4th Cir. 2023)
- Campbell v. Orient-Express Hotels Louisiana, Inc., 403 So. 3d 573, 580-81 (La. 2025)
- Farrell v. Circle K Stores, Inc., 359 So. 3d 467, 473 (La. 2023)
- Jones v. Boot Bar & Grill, 350 So. 3d 968, 984 (La. App. 4th Cir. 2022)
- Kniepp v. City of Shreveport, 609 So. 2d 1163, 1168 (La. App. 2d Cir. 1992)
- Posecai v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 752 So. 2d 762, 769 (La. 1999)
- Miller v. McDonald's Corporation, 439 So. 2d 561, 564-65 (La. App. 1st Cir. 1983)

- *Brewer v. J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc.*, 35 So. 3d 230, 240 (La. 2010)
- *Hardy v. Bowie*, 744 So. 2d 606, 614 (La. 1999)
- *Carr v. Sanderson Farm, Inc.*, 189 So. 3d 450, 457 (La. App. 1st Cir. 2016)
- *Strickland v. Ambassador Insurance Co.*, 422 So. 2d 1207, 1209 (La. App. 1st Cir. 1982)
- *Macklin v. Businelle*, 2012 WL 2060737, at *2 (La. App. 1st Cir. 2012)
- *Turnage v. General Electric Co.*, 1989 WL 159342, at *2-3 (E.D. La. Dec. 18, 1989)
- *Turnage v. General Electric Co.*, 953 F.2d 206, 213 (5th Cir. 1992)
- *Ainsworth v. Shell Offshore, Inc.*, 829 F.2d 548 (5th Cir. 1987)
- *Marsalis v. LaSalle*, 94 So. 2d 120, 124 (La. App. Orleans 1957)
- *Black v. Avondale Industries, Inc.*, 783 So. 2d 505, 509 (La. App. 5th Cir. 2001)
- *Walker v. Union Oil Mill, Inc.*, 369 So. 2d 1043, 1047 (La. 1979)
- *Hodge v. St. Bernard Chapter No. 26, Home, Inc.*, 338 So. 2d 934, 937 (La. App. 5th Cir. 1976)
- *Mumphrey v. Rollins*, 468 So. 2d 580, 582 (La. App. 3d Cir. 1985)
- *Hebert v. Rapides Parish Police Jury*, 974 So. 2d 635, 643 (La. 2007)
- *Pickard v. Amazon.Com, Inc.*, 387 So. 3d 515, 525 (La. 2024)
- *Burgert v. Tietjens*, 499 F.2d 1, 8 (10th Cir. 1974)
- *Huffman v. Davey Tree Expert Co.*, 2025 WL 675458, at *19 (S.D. Ga. Mar. 3, 2025)
- *Gusan v. Kroger Texas, L.P.*, 2021 WL 3290278, at *6 (N.D. Tex. Aug. 2, 2021)
- *Frye v. CSX Transportation, Inc.*, 2017 WL 4120102, at *7 (E.D. Mich. Sept. 18, 2017)
- *Doe v. Delta Airlines*, 129 F. Supp. 3d 23, 47 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 10, 2015)
- *Wayne Enterprises, LLC v. McGhee*, 2017 WL 1960662, at *9 (D. Idaho May 10, 2017)
- *Timmons v. Silman*, 761 So. 2d 507, 510 (La. 2000)
- *Pelitire v. Rinker*, 270 So. 3d 817, 835 (La. App. 5th Cir. 2019)
- *Polk v. Blaque*, 633 So. 2d 1382 (La. App. 4th Cir. 1994)
- *Danna v. Purgerson*, 2017 WL 5560179, at *5 (W.D. La. Nov. 17, 2017)
- *Brougher v. Costco Wholesale Corporation*, 2025 WL 3525583, at *7 (N.D. Ga. Nov. 10, 2025)
- *Ellsworth v. Dallas Texas Dep't of Veteran Affs.*, 2025 WL 3239806, at *5 (5th Cir. Nov. 20, 2025)
- *Polinski v. Avondale Premier Collection*, 2025 WL 3902068, at *6 (N.D. Tex. Dec. 15, 2025)
- *Hayes v. Bank of America, N.A.*, 2020 WL 3065936, at *2 (N.D. Tex. May 15, 2020)

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