

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Ali Cisse v. G. Hill, et al.

Cisse · No. 23-CV-6575-FPG · Decided November 24, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of New York denied Defendant Brandi Corigliano’s motion for summary judgment without prejudice to renewal after discovery. The court held that pre-discovery summary judgment was inappropriate because Plaintiff alleged that Corigliano intentionally falsified medical records, making further discovery relevant to the accuracy of those records. The court also denied Plaintiff’s motion for reconsideration of the denial of appointed counsel.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of New York
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of New York
DECIDED	November 24, 2025
DOCKET	23-CV-6575-FPG
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action alleging, among other things, denial of adequate medical care. Defendant Brandi Corigliano moved for summary judgment before discovery had occurred. The court denied the motion without prejudice to renewal after discovery.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Summary judgment is appropriate when the movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Although a summary-judgment motion may be filed before discovery closes, pre-discovery summary judgment is generally inappropriate when the nonmoving party has not had an opportunity to discover information essential to opposing the motion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district-court decision marked per curiam with no reporter citation.
PARTIES	Ali Cisse v. G. Hill, et al., Brandi Corigliano

TOPICS

summary judgment

section 1983

prisoners rights

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

prisoner civil rights

constitutional torts

summary judgment

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether summary judgment should be granted before discovery on Cisse's deliberate-medical-indifference claim when Cisse alleges that the medical records submitted in support of the motion were intentionally falsified.
2. Whether Corigliano's motion should be denied without prejudice to renewal after discovery.

HOLDINGS

1. Pre-discovery summary judgment is inappropriate where the nonmoving party alleges that the evidentiary records supporting the motion were intentionally falsified and has not had an opportunity to obtain discovery concerning their accuracy.
2. Corigliano's motion for summary judgment was denied without prejudice to renewal at the close of discovery.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Only in the rarest of cases may summary judgment be granted against a plaintiff who has not been afforded the opportunity to conduct discovery.”

“where it is clear that the nonmoving party cannot defeat the motion by showing facts sufficient to require a trial for resolution”

“had the opportunity to discover information that is essential to his opposition”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Cisse alleges that correctional officers used excessive force against him at Elmira Correctional Facility and that, after his transfer to Marcy Correctional Facility, Nurse Practitioner Brandi Corigliano denied him adequate medical care. He alleges that he reported serious and continuing injuries, requested an x-ray or MRI, and was denied diagnostic testing and meaningful treatment. Cisse further alleges that Corigliano relied on medical records from Elmira, failed to conduct an adequate independent assessment, and intentionally falsified or made false statements in his medical records. Corigliano supported her pre-discovery summary-judgment motion with medical records, while Cisse maintained that discovery was necessary to test their accuracy.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Cisse filed the action on October 2, 2023. The court screened the complaint under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A and allowed, among other claims, the denial-of-medical-care claim against Corigliano to proceed to service. Corigliano moved for summary judgment on March 13, 2025, before discovery; the court denied the

motion without prejudice and directed that it could be renewed at the close of discovery. The court also denied plaintiff's motion for reconsideration of an earlier order denying appointment of counsel.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Nelson v. Deming, 140 F. Supp. 3d 248, 257 (W.D.N.Y. 2015)
- Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986)
- Hellstrom v. U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, 201 F.3d 94, 97 (2d Cir. 2000)
- Parra v. Wright, No. 11-CV-6270, 2013 WL 6669235, at *7 (W.D.N.Y. Dec. 18, 2013)
- Trebor Sportswear Co. v. The Ltd. Stores, Inc., 865 F.2d 506, 511 (2d Cir. 1989)
- Lewis v. Zon, 614 F. Supp. 2d 362, 364 (W.D.N.Y. 2009)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK ALI CISSE, Plaintiff, Case # 23-CV-6575-FPG v. DECISION AND ORDER G. HILL, et al., Defendants. INTRODUCTION Plaintiff Ali Cisse brings this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. ECF No. 1. Defendant Brandi Corigliano moves for summary judgment on Plaintiff's claim against her. ECF No. 8. Plaintiff opposes the motion.

ECF No. 17. For the reasons that follow, Corigliano's motion for summary judgment (ECF No. 8) is DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE to renewal at the closing of discovery. LEGAL STANDARD The instant case has yet to proceed to discovery. Summary judgment is appropriate when the moving party "shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact" and that they are "entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed.

R. Civ. P. 56(a). A motion for summary judgment may be filed "at any time until 30 days after the close of all discovery." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(b). Indeed, "both the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and courts from within this district have indicated that a party may be granted summary judgment before an answer is filed." Nelson v. Deming, 140 F. Supp. 3d 248, 257 (W.D.N.Y.

2015) (collecting cases). That said, summary judgment is generally not appropriate until after some discovery has occurred. Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986). That is because summary judgment tests the sufficiency of the evidence, see Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a), and the parties obtain the evidence through discovery, see generally Fed. R. Civ. P. 26; Celotex, 477 U.S. at 322. "Only in the rarest of cases may summary judgment be granted against a plaintiff who has not been afforded the opportunity to conduct discovery." Hellstrom v. U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, 201 F.3d 94, 97 (2d Cir.

2000). In the rare instance where summary judgment is appropriate before discovery, it is evident from the face of the complaint that discovery would be futile. See, e.g., *Nelson*, 140 F. Supp. 3d at 257 (granting defendants' pre-discovery motion for summary judgment because "[t]he facts contained in the attachments to [p]laintiff's own complaint contradict[ed] his claim"); *Parra v. Wright*, No. 11-CV-6270, 2013 WL 6669235, at *7 (W.D.N.Y.

Dec. 18, 2013) (granting defendants' pre-discovery motion for summary judgment on exhaustion grounds because the facts were "not disputed, and it does not appear that any amount of discovery would change the outcome"). Only "where it is clear that the nonmoving party cannot defeat the motion by showing facts sufficient to require a trial for resolution," may summary judgment be granted "notwithstanding the absence of discovery." *Nelson*, 140 F. Supp. 3d at 257 (internal quotation marks omitted).

Conversely, where the nonmoving party has not "had the opportunity to discover information that is essential to his opposition" to the motion, pre-discovery motions for summary judgment are inappropriate. *Trebor Sportswear Co. v. The Ltd. Stores, Inc.*, 865 F.2d 506, 511 (2d Cir. 1989) (quotation omitted). BACKGROUND In his Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that while he was incarcerated at Elmira Correctional Facility ("Elmira"), numerous employees of that facility violated his constitutional rights, including by using excessive force against him.

ECF No. 1. He also alleges that once he was transferred to Marcy Correctional Facility ("Marcy"), employees at that facility, including Corigliano, denied him adequate medical care for his injuries sustained at Elmira.¹ Id. As Corigliano is the only moving defendant, the Court will only address Plaintiff's specific allegations relevant to her. While at Marcy, Plaintiff had an appointment with Corigliano, who is a Nurse Practitioner.

ECF No. 1 at 16. At the appointment, Plaintiff alleges that he informed Corigliano of his injuries from the use of excessive force at Elmira, telling her that his left ribcage felt broken; he had a sensation up-and-down his spine whenever he touched it; he had knee pain; and he believed he had "shattered" bones in his foot. Id. He also informed her that the pain was "excruciating" and "effect[ed]" his "daily activities" and sleep.

Id. at 17. He specifically requested an x-ray or an MRI as well. Id. Plaintiff alleges that Corigliano denied his requests and allegedly stated that because his injuries occurred a few months ago they were "untreatable so an x-ray or MRI would be pointless at this moment." Id. According to Plaintiff, Corigliano initially considered his request but changed her mind when he told her that his injuries were caused by correction officers at Elmira.

Id. After he told her this, he alleges that she became irritated and told him that he had previously been seen at Elmira numerous times for his injuries. Id. Plaintiff then told her that he was seen

only once at Elmira with no care whatsoever. *Id.* He alleges that he learned later when he reviewed his medical records from Elmira that they had been falsified.

Id. Plaintiff maintains that Corigliano simply relied on 1 As the Court explained in its initial screening order, ECF No. 3, the claims relating to the denial of medical treatment at Marcy arose in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York.

In that screening order, the Court declined to consider severance and transfer of those claims but noted that Defendants were free to move for severance of those claims. ECF No. 3 at 24. Corigliano has not moved to sever. Further, venue is proper in this district because at least one of the named defendants resides in this district and all Defendants appear to reside in the state.

See 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1); see also *Lewis v. Zon*, 614 F. Supp. 2d 362, 364 (W.D.N.Y. 2009) (denying defendants' motion for severance and transfer where "trial of the plaintiff's claims in a single forum, rather than the three different fora proposed by the movants, will promote judicial economy and vitiate the need to engage in duplicative discovery and re-litigate many of plaintiff's claims"). his medical records and did not perform her own assessment of his medical complaints.

Id. at 17. Plaintiff further alleges that in her progress note related to his treatment, Corigliano made multiple false statements in an attempt to cover up the incident at Elmira. *Id.* at 18. He also maintains that he saw Corigliano a second time, but that she again did nothing but superficially examine him and denied an x-ray or MRI. *Id.* at 21.

On October 2, 2023, Plaintiff brought the present action in this Court. ECF No. 1. On April 12, 2024, the Court screened the complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A, allowing certain claims to proceed to service, including Plaintiff's claim against Corigliano for denial of medical care. ECF No. 3 at 32.

On March 13, 2025, Corigliano moved for summary judgment on this claim. ECF No. 8. The other remaining Defendants have answered the complaint. DISCUSSION Corigliano argues that summary judgment is appropriate in this case prior to discovery because the claim against her is a common deliberate medical indifference claim and therefore, the only discoverable documents are Plaintiff's relevant medical records.

ECF No. 8-4 at 2.2 As she appended those records to her motion, she argues that this is the rare case where summary judgment is warranted prior to discovery. See *id.* The Court disagrees. In his Complaint, Plaintiff has alleged that Corigliano intentionally falsified his medical records. ECF No. 1 at 18.

As such, this is not the common deliberate medical indifference claim where the only discoverable documents are Plaintiff's relevant medical records. Instead, it is a case where the accuracy of the medical records is in question and further discovery is warranted to assess Plaintiff's allegations. 2

Corigliano also makes other arguments; however, those arguments are all predicated on her contention that the only relevant discovery is Plaintiff's medical records.

Because the Court rejects that contention, it need not address her other arguments. Therefore, the Court concludes that summary judgment is inappropriate at this time. As Plaintiff's claim rests—at least in part—on his allegation that his medical records were intentionally falsified, Plaintiff must be given the opportunity to discover information related to accuracy of such records, which is essential to his opposition to Corigliano's motion based on the records.

See *Trebor Sportswear Co.*, 865 F.2d at 511. Consequently, the Court denies Corigliano's motion for summary judgment without prejudice to renewal at the close of discovery. **CONCLUSION** For the reasons stated, Corigliano's Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 8) is **DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** to renewal at the close of discovery. Corigliano shall answer or otherwise respond to Plaintiff's complaint by December 23, 2025.

Plaintiffs motion for reconsideration of the Court's April 22, 2025 Text Order denying his motion for appointment of counsel (ECF No. 16) is **DENIED** for the same reasons as described in the April 22, 2025 Text Order (ECF No. 14). **IT IS SO ORDERED.** Dated: November 24, 2025
Rochester, New York United States District Judge Western District of New York