

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
TENNESSEE, COLUMBIA DIVISION

Corey Taylor v. Sebastian Bullard

Taylor · No. 1:24-cv-00052 · Decided March 5, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee adopts the magistrate judge's report and recommendation without objection. The court grants Defendant Sebastian Bullard's motion for summary judgment on Corey Taylor's 42 U.S.C. § 1983 First Amendment retaliation claim and directs the Clerk to enter judgment and close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Columbia Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Judge Richardson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Columbia Division
DECIDED	March 5, 2026
DOCKET	1:24-cv-00052
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's report and recommendation recommending that the defendant's motion for summary judgment be granted. No objections were filed, and the district court adopted and approved the report and recommendation and entered judgment for the defendant.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b)(3), the district judge reviews de novo those portions of a magistrate judge's report and recommendation to which a proper objection is made. When no objection is filed, the district court is not required to conduct de novo or other independent review of the unobjected-to portions.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order; limited precedential value

TOPICS

summary judgment

section 1983

prisoners rights

first amendment

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

constitutional law

prisoner litigation

summary judgment

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should adopt the magistrate judge's report and recommendation when no party filed timely objections.
2. Whether defendant Bullard was entitled to summary judgment on Taylor's § 1983 First Amendment retaliation claim.

HOLDINGS

1. When no party files objections to a report and recommendation, the district court is not required to conduct de novo or other independent review of the unobjected-to portions and may adopt the recommendation.
2. The defendant's motion for summary judgment was granted, and judgment was entered in the defendant's favor on Taylor's remaining § 1983 claim.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The failure to object to a report and recommendation releases the Court from its duty to independently review the matter."

"Accordingly, the Motion (Doc. No. 28) is GRANTED, and Defendant is granted summary judgment."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Taylor was incarcerated at the Turney Center Industrial Complex in Tennessee and alleged that Bullard, a correctional officer, spoke to him disrespectfully, searched him and his cell, removed red pens, and otherwise harassed him. Taylor filed a prison grievance concerning an April 24, 2024 interaction with Bullard and alleged that Bullard retaliated five days later by ordering him from a cell, searching him, making hostile statements, and issuing a disciplinary report. Taylor pleaded guilty to threatening an employee but alleged that he did so under duress. The order adopted the magistrate judge's factual background without independently reciting the summary-judgment merits analysis.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Corey Taylor, a pro se inmate, filed an in forma pauperis action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging that correctional officer Sebastian Bullard retaliated against him for pursuing a prison grievance. The court dismissed claims against another correctional officer at initial review, while allowing a First Amendment retaliation claim against Bullard to proceed. After discovery and the filing of Bullard's motion for summary judgment, the magistrate judge recommended granting the motion. Taylor filed no objections, so the district court adopted the recommendation, granted summary judgment, directed entry of judgment under Rule 58, and closed the case.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Hart v. Bee Prop. Mgmt., Inc., No. 18-cv-11851, 2019 WL 1242372, at *1 (E.D. Mich. Mar. 18, 2019)
- Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 149-50 (1985)
- Ashraf v. Adventist Health Sys./Sunbelt, Inc., 322 F. Supp. 3d 879, 881 (W.D. Tenn. 2018)
- Benson v. Walden Sec., No. 3:18-CV-0010, 2018 WL 6322332, at *3 (M.D. Tenn. Dec. 4, 2018)

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