

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH
CAROLINA

Walker Manning Hughes v. Shane Jackson; Edward Tisdale; Sgt.
Laporshe Walters; Dustin Phillips, NP

Hughes · No. 0:24-cv-01529-JDA · Decided February 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of South Carolina accepts a magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation and grants defendants’ motions for summary judgment in a prisoner’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action. The court rejects claims alleging failure to protect, deliberate indifference to a risk of violence, deliberate indifference to serious medical needs, and supervisory liability, concluding that the plaintiff failed to present sufficient evidence of constitutional violations. The court also declines to consider a negligence claim raised for the first time in objections.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jacquelyn D. Austin
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
DECIDED	February 25, 2026
DOCKET	0:24-cv-01529-JDA
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, objected to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation recommending that defendants' motions for summary judgment be granted. The district court conducted de novo review of the objected-to portions of the Report and Recommendation and granted defendants' motions for summary judgment.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court reviews de novo those portions of a magistrate judge's report to which specific objections are made and reviews unobjected-to portions for clear error. On summary judgment, the facts are viewed in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party, but a court need not credit a version of events blatantly contradicted by video evidence where no reasonable jury could believe it.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court opinion
PARTIES	Walker Manning Hughes v. Shane Jackson, Edward Tisdale, Sgt. Laporshe Walters, Dustin Phillips, NP

TOPICS

[section 1983](#)
[prisoners rights](#)
[cruel and unusual punishment](#)
[summary judgment](#)
[civil procedure](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[civil rights litigation](#)
[prisoner civil rights](#)
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[federal civil procedure](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court properly reviewed the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation under the de novo and clear-error standards.
2. Whether video evidence contradicted portions of Plaintiff's factual account such that the court could decline to credit those portions at summary judgment.
3. Whether Plaintiff presented sufficient evidence that defendants were deliberately indifferent to a substantial risk of serious harm in violation of the Eighth Amendment.
4. Whether Plaintiff presented sufficient evidence of deliberate indifference to serious medical needs under the Eighth Amendment.
5. Whether Plaintiff presented evidence supporting supervisory liability against Jackson and Tisdale.
6. Whether Plaintiff could preserve or assert a negligence claim for the first time in objections to the Report and Recommendation.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court must conduct de novo review of portions of a magistrate judge's report to which specific objections are made and need only review unobjected-to portions for clear error.
2. A court need not credit the nonmoving party's version of events when video evidence blatantly contradicts that version and no reasonable jury could believe it.
3. Plaintiff's failure-to-protect and deliberate-indifference claims failed because he did not forecast evidence of an obvious or substantial risk of serious harm known to defendants, and the uncontroverted facts did not permit a reasonable jury to find the required subjective knowledge.
4. Plaintiff failed to present sufficient evidence that defendants were deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs because the undisputed medical records showed constitutionally adequate care and did not establish treatment so grossly incompetent as to shock the conscience.
5. Plaintiff's supervisory-liability claim failed because he did not provide evidence of a constitutional violation by a subordinate or continued inaction in the face of documented, widespread abuses.

6. The court was not required to consider a negligence claim or argument raised for the first time in objections to the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation, particularly where the deadline to amend the pleadings had expired.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“an Eighth Amendment claimant need not show that a prison official acted or failed to act believing that harm actually would befall an inmate; it is enough that the official acted or failed to act despite his knowledge of a substantial risk of serious harm.” (511 U.S. at 842)

“The Court has conducted a de novo review of the video footage and concludes that the Magistrate Judge did not err in discrediting portions of Plaintiff’s factual statements.”

“Based upon the foregoing, the Court accepts the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge and incorporates it by reference.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a South Carolina prisoner, was assaulted in his cell by two inmates wielding multiple weapons and suffered stab wounds and facial fractures. Although Sergeant Walters encountered Plaintiff during the incident and later escorted him to the medical department, approximately forty minutes passed before Plaintiff received medical attention and he was subsequently treated at an outside hospital. Defendant Phillips later examined Plaintiff, arranged a maxillofacial referral, ordered medication, and provided follow-up care; Plaintiff also had numerous encounters with other medical or mental-health personnel.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The case was referred to Magistrate Judge Paige J. Gossett for pretrial proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2), D.S.C. The magistrate judge issued a Report and Recommendation on December 19, 2025, recommending summary judgment for all defendants. Plaintiff filed objections, defendants replied, and the district court accepted and incorporated the Report and Recommendation, granting both summary-judgment motions.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Mathews v. Weber, 423 U.S. 261, 270–71 (1976)
- Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Ins., 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005)
- Witt v. W. Va. State Police, Troop 2, 633 F.3d 272, 276–77 (4th Cir. 2011)
- Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 842 (1994)
- Addison v. CMH Homes, Inc., 47 F. Supp. 3d 404, 412 (D.S.C. 2014)

OPINION

Hughes

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ROCK HILL DIVISION

Walker Manning Hughes,) Case No. 0:24-cv-01529-JDA) Plaintiff,))

v.) OPINION AND ORDER

) Shane Jackson; Edward Tisdale; Sgt.) Laporshe Walters; Dustin Phillips, NP,)) Defendants.)

_____) This matter is before the Court on motions for summary judgment filed by Defendants Shane Jackson and Edward Tisdale [Doc. 54] and Sergeant Laporshe Walters and Nurse Practitioner Dustin Phillips [Doc. 108]. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2), D.S.C., this matter was referred to United States Magistrate Judge Paige J. Gossett for pre-trial proceedings. On December 19, 2025, the Magistrate Judge issued a Report and Recommendation (“Report”) recommending that Defendants’ motions for summary judgment be granted. [Doc. 137.] The Magistrate Judge advised the parties of the procedures and requirements for filing objections to the Report and the serious consequences if they failed to do so. [Id. at 33.] Plaintiff filed objections on January 23, 2026. [Doc. 144.] Walters and Phillips filed a reply on February 2, 2026 [Doc. 146], and Jackson and Tisdale filed a reply on February 6, 2026 [Doc. 148]. The motions are now ripe for review.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to this Court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with the Court. See *Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261, 270–71

(1976). The Court is charged with making a de novo determination of only those portions of the Report that have been specifically objected to, and the Court may accept, reject, or modify the Report, in whole or in part. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). The Court will review the Report only for clear error in the absence of an objection. See *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Ins.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005) (stating that “in the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation” (internal quotation marks omitted)).

BACKGROUND

Viewed in the light most favorable to Plaintiff, the summary judgment record reveals the following facts. Plaintiff, a prisoner in the custody of the South Carolina Department of Corrections, was assaulted in his cell in the F-1 unit at Lee Correctional Institution (“LCI”) by two other inmates on April 26, 2023. [Doc. 1-1 at 1–2.] The assailants wielded various weapons, including ice picks, a homemade axe, a flat blade, and a three- foot sword with spikes. [Id. at 2.] For approximately two hours, the assailants held Plaintiff hostage, repeatedly entered and exited Plaintiff’s cell, and stole

Plaintiff's personal possessions. [Id. at 1–2.] Plaintiff sustained multiple stab wounds and broken facial bones. [Id. at 1.] Security-camera footage from the A-side of the F-1 unit depicting the time during which the attack occurred confirms Walters' periodic presence in the F-1 unit. [See generally Docs. 133 (video); 134.] Walters entered the A-side of the F-1 unit to begin locking inmates into their cells. [Docs. 1-1 at 2; 133 (video at 17:48:29–17:54:56); 134 at 6.] Plaintiff alerted Walters to his injuries. [Docs. 1-1 at 2; 133 (video at 17:54:56–17:56:32); 134 at 6–7.] Following her conversation with Plaintiff, Walters continued locking inmates on the A-side of the F-1 unit into their cells. [Docs. 1-1 at 2–3; 108-1 at 6; 133 (video at 17:56:32–18:32:17); 134 at 7–8.] Lieutenant McCullough arrived on the scene in response to an alleged call for assistance from Walters, and both officers escorted Plaintiff to the medical department. [Docs. 1-1 at 3; 108-3 at 2–3; 133 (video at 18:32:17–18:38:22); 134 at 8.] Approximately 40 minutes passed between Plaintiff's initial conversation with Walters and his trip to the medical department. [Docs. 133 (video at 17:56:32–18:38:22); 134 at 7–8.] Plaintiff was transferred to an outside hospital where some of his wounds were sutured. [Doc. 1-1 at 4.] When Plaintiff returned to LCI, Phillips examined Plaintiff and indicated that his wounds appeared appropriately bandaged. [Doc. 108-4 at 4, 40–42.] In addition, Phillips completed paperwork for Plaintiff to receive a referral to a maxillofacial surgeon and ordered several medications. [Id. at 4, 6, 40–42.] In the ensuing weeks, Plaintiff had approximately 13 encounters with LCI medical or mental health staff during which Phillips was not present. [Id. at 4, 10–39.] Phillips examined Plaintiff again on June 21, 2023, at which time Phillips gave Plaintiff two pairs of orthotic shoes. [Id. at 5, 8–9.] As explained by the Magistrate Judge, Plaintiff's Complaint raises several claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for violations of the Eighth Amendment: (1) failure to protect against Walters; (2) deliberate indifference to a risk of violence against Walters, Jackson, and Tisdale; (3) supervisory liability against Jackson and Tisdale; (4) and deliberate indifference to serious medical needs against Walters, Jackson, Tisdale, and Phillips. [Doc. 6 at 1; see also Docs. 1; 137 at 2–3.]

DISCUSSION

The Magistrate Judge recommends granting Defendants' motions for summary judgment. [Doc. 137.] Regarding the failure-to-protect and deliberate-indifference-to-a-risk-of-violence claims, the Magistrate Judge determined that (1) Plaintiff failed to forecast sufficient evidence of pervasive inmate-on-inmate assaults, contraband reports, or staff shortages in the F-1 unit at LCI giving rise to an obvious risk of violence and (2) Plaintiff failed to forecast sufficient evidence showing that Defendants possessed actual, subjective knowledge "that Plaintiff's assailants presented an imminent danger of serious harm to other inmates and that any action or inaction by that defendant increased that risk to a strong likelihood—rather than a possibility—that they would commit violence against other inmates." [Id. at 13–23.] Regarding the deliberate-indifference-to-medical-needs claim, the Magistrate Judge concluded that Plaintiff failed to present sufficient evidence showing that the treatment he received was so grossly incompetent as to shock the conscience. [Id. at 24–29.] Finally, regarding the supervisory liability claim, the Magistrate Judge determined that

Plaintiff failed to forecast evidence of a constitutional violation by a subordinate or continued inaction in the face of documented, widespread abuses. [Id. at 29–32.] Plaintiff raises several objections to the Report. Specifically, Plaintiff argues that

(1) the Magistrate Judge improperly weighed the video evidence; (2) the Magistrate Judge misapplied *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825 (1994), by requiring specific proof of an imminent threat; (3) the Magistrate Judge barred Plaintiff from completing requested discovery; (4) Plaintiff submitted sufficient evidence to survive summary judgment on the deliberate-indifference-to-medical-needs claim; (5) Plaintiff submitted sufficient evidence to survive summary judgment on the supervisory liability claim; and (6) Plaintiff reserved the right to submit an additional claim for negligence. [Doc. 144.] The Court overrules Plaintiff’s objections. First, the Magistrate Judge correctly observed that a court need not credit the non-moving party’s version of the facts if the video evidence blatantly contradicts it and no reasonable jury could believe it. [Doc. 137 at 22 (citing *Witt v. W. Va. State Police, Troop 2*, 633 F.3d 272, 276–77 (4th Cir. 2011)).] In the present case, the Magistrate Judge construed the facts in the light most favorable to Plaintiff and credited Plaintiff’s account to the extent it was supported by the record. [See, e.g., id. at 2 (“Plaintiff concedes Walters’s presence on his wing in his supplemental response, in which he details Walters’s movements during the period of time shown in the video.” (citing Doc. 134)); id. at 22 n.6 (crediting Plaintiff’s assertion that one of his assailants carried a visible weapon but concluding that “an imminent risk to other inmates from that weapon” was not obvious to Walters because she “was not present on the wing during this time” (citing Doc. 134 at 4)); id. at 26 (noting that Plaintiff “does not dispute that, approximately forty minutes after his initial conversation with Walters, Walters and McCullough escorted Plaintiff to the medical department” (citing Doc. 134 at 9)).] Conversely, the Magistrate Judge declined to credit Plaintiff’s version of the facts where the video evidence clearly contradicted it. [See, e.g., id. at 21–22 (determining that “Plaintiff’s arguments that Defendants Walters, Jackson, and Tisdale had actual knowledge of a substantial risk of harm to Plaintiff either based on what Walters must have seen while in the F-1 unit or through Jackson’s and Tisdale’s monitoring of the security cameras [were] contradicted by the evidence in the record” where “review of the video footage [did] not show obvious, visible blood on either of Plaintiff’s attackers” or a “blatant display of weapons”).] The Court has conducted a de novo review of the video footage and concludes that the Magistrate Judge did not err in discrediting portions of Plaintiff’s factual statements. Second, the Magistrate Judge did not misapply *Farmer*. In *Farmer*, the United States Supreme Court held that “an Eighth Amendment claimant need not show that a prison official acted or failed to act believing that harm actually would befall an inmate; it is enough that the official acted or failed to act despite his knowledge of a substantial risk of serious harm.” 511 U.S. at 842. “Whether a prison official had the requisite knowledge of a substantial risk is a question of fact subject to demonstration in the usual ways, including inference from circumstantial evidence, and a factfinder may conclude that a prison official knew of a substantial risk from the very fact that the risk was obvious.” Id. (citation

omitted). An obvious risk is typically “longstanding, pervasive, well-documented, or expressly noted.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks omitted). In the present case, the Magistrate Judge correctly determined that Plaintiff produced “no evidence” of an obvious risk—whether direct or circumstantial—“in support of such allegations for the time period at issue.” [Doc. 137 at 19.] Moreover, the Magistrate Judge found that Plaintiff failed to forecast evidence from which a reasonable jury could find that Defendants possessed actual knowledge of a substantial risk of attack, as Plaintiff himself conceded that he did not see the attack coming, never told a security staff member that he believed himself to be in danger, and never requested protective custody. [*Id.* at 19–20 (citing Doc. 117-4 at 9).] Such uncontroverted facts preclude relief. Third, the Magistrate Judge did not improperly deny discovery. Indeed, the Magistrate Judge denied Plaintiff’s motion to compel without prejudice and with leave to refile [Doc. 66], and Plaintiff never renewed his motion to compel. Plaintiff’s fourth and fifth objections fail to identify a specific disagreement with the Magistrate Judge’s Report. [See Doc. 144 at 2.] Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution for the pro se Plaintiff, the Court has conducted a de novo review of the Magistrate Judge’s findings regarding Plaintiff’s deliberate-indifference-to-medical-needs claim and supervisory liability claim. [See Doc. 137 at 24–32.] Upon such review, the Court concludes that the Magistrate Judge properly reviewed the evidence in the light most favorable to Plaintiff in reaching her conclusions. In particular, Plaintiff’s uncontroverted medical records indicate that Plaintiff received constitutionally adequate care. [*Id.* at 25– 29.] Moreover, Plaintiff failed to provide evidence of a constitutional violation by a subordinate. [*Id.* at 31–32.] Finally, Plaintiff attempts to preserve a claim for negligence. This “objection” is improper, as it extends beyond the scope of the Magistrate Judge’s Report. See *Addison v. CMH Homes, Inc.*, 47 F. Supp. 3d 404, 412 (D.S.C. 2014) (“The Court is . . . not obligated to consider new arguments raised by a party for the first time in objections to the Magistrate’s Report.”). Moreover, Plaintiff’s opportunity to amend the pleadings has long lapsed. [See Doc. 12 (scheduling order setting a deadline to file motions to amend pleadings by June 13, 2024).]

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, the Court accepts the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge and incorporates it by reference. Accordingly, Defendants’ motions for summary judgment [Docs. 54; 108] are GRANTED. IT IS SO ORDERED. s/Jacquelyn D. Austin United States District Judge February 24, 2026 Columbia, South Carolina

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

The parties are hereby notified of the right to appeal this order pursuant to Rules 3 and 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.