

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

Lamar Ray Steele Jr. v. (LNU), et al.

Steele · No. 25-3242-JWL · Decided January 26, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Kansas dismissed Lamar Ray Steele Jr.'s pro se Bivens action concerning an alleged cell extraction and related claims of due process violations, inadequate medical care, excessive force, and inhumane conditions of confinement. The court held that the plaintiff had not shown that a Bivens remedy was available and that the Bureau of Prisons' Administrative Remedy Program constituted an adequate alternative remedial process. The court granted the plaintiff's motion to file his response out of time but dismissed the action for failure to state a claim.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	John W. Lungstrum
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Kansas
DECIDED	January 26, 2026
DOCKET	25-3242-JWL
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Pro se federal pretrial detainee brought a Bivens civil-rights action seeking compensatory and punitive damages. After granting leave to proceed in forma pauperis, the court ordered plaintiff to show cause why the complaint should not be dismissed for failure to establish an available Bivens remedy. Plaintiff filed a response out of time, which the court accepted, but dismissed the action for failure to state a claim.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court accepted plaintiff's factual allegations as true in determining whether he had stated a claim, but required him to show a legal basis authorizing a damages action against federal officials under Bivens.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court memorandum and order; nonprecedential.

TOPICS

- civil rights
- constitutional law
- damages
- motions to dismiss
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights

constitutional law

federal courts

prisoner litigation

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether plaintiff could pursue damages claims against federal prison officials under Bivens for alleged due-process, medical-care, excessive-force, and conditions-of-confinement violations arising in a new Bivens context.
2. Whether the Bureau of Prisons Administrative Remedy Program was an inadequate alternative remedy such that a court could recognize a new Bivens cause of action.
3. Whether plaintiff's response to the order to show cause should be accepted despite being filed late.

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff failed to show that a Bivens cause of action is available for his claims against federal prison officials because the claims arose in a new context beyond the limited contexts recognized by the Supreme Court.
2. The alleged ineffectiveness of the Bureau of Prisons Administrative Remedy Program did not justify recognition of a new Bivens remedy.
3. Plaintiff's request to file his response to the order to show cause out of time was granted.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"So long as Congress or the Executive has created a remedial process that it finds sufficient to secure an adequate level of deterrence, the courts cannot second-guess that calibration by superimposing a Bivens remedy."

"The Court acknowledges Plaintiff's frustration, but, even taking all of his factual allegations as true, Plaintiff has not shown that he has a cause of action by which to bring these claims."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a federal pretrial detainee held at FCI-Leavenworth, alleged that prison staff subjected him to an unjustified cell extraction on January 4, 2024. He claimed violations of due process, inadequate medical care, excessive force, and inhumane conditions of confinement. He named five FCI-Leavenworth staff members and sought compensatory and punitive damages, while alleging that he had submitted numerous administrative remedies without receiving meaningful investigation or relief.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court previously issued a Memorandum and Order to Show Cause explaining that plaintiff had not shown that a Bivens remedy was available for his claims. Plaintiff moved to file his response out of time and argued that his constitutional claims arose in a new Bivens context and that the Bureau of Prisons Administrative Remedy Program was inadequate. The court granted the late-filing motion, considered the response, and dismissed the action for failure to state a claim on which relief could be granted.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, 403 U.S. 388 (1971)
- DeVillier v. Texas, 601 U.S. 285, 291-93 (2024)
- Cuervo v. Sorenson, 112 F.4th 1307, 131-14 (10th Cir. 2024)
- Logsdon v. U.S. Marshal Serv., 91 F.4th 1352 (10th Cir. 2024)
- Mohamed v. Jones, 100 F.4th 1214, 1229 (10th Cir. 2024)
- Egbert v. Boule, 596 U.S. 482, 498, 503 (2022)
- Silva v. United States, 45 F.4th 1134, 1141 (10th Cir. 2022)
- Walker v. Hudson, No. 24-3148, 2025 WL 1577808, at *3 (10th Cir. June 4, 2025)

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