

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

Jeffrey Lamont Lee v. Candice Andrychowicz, et al.

Lee v. Andrychowicz · No. 2:24-cv-00287 · Decided May 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin granted defendants’ motion for summary judgment in Jeffrey Lamont Lee’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action. The court held that Lee failed to establish an objectively extreme deprivation of bathroom access or an injury caused by the discontinuation of his special handling note, and therefore rejected his Eighth Amendment conditions-of-confinement and deliberate-indifference claims. The case was dismissed.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
DECIDED	May 29, 2026
DOCKET	2:24-cv-00287
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging that prison officials were deliberately indifferent to unconstitutional conditions of confinement and that defendant Burton was deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs. Defendants moved for summary judgment.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Summary judgment is appropriate when there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The court views reasonable inferences in the light most favorable to the nonmovant, but a party bearing the ultimate burden of proof must present admissible evidence sufficient to support a reasonable jury verdict and may not rely solely on the pleadings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Jeffrey Lamont Lee v. Candice Andrychowicz, Michelle Burton, John Schwieso, Jennfier Krogh

TOPICS

- section 1983
- prisoners rights
- cruel and unusual punishment
- summary judgment
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights

constitutional law

prisoner civil rights

civil procedure

health law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether defendants subjected Lee to an objectively serious deprivation of the minimal civilized measure of life's necessities by restricting or discontinuing his special handling note and by enforcing bathroom restrictions during prison counts.
2. Whether Burton was deliberately indifferent to Lee's serious medical needs under the Eighth Amendment.
3. Whether defendants were entitled to summary judgment because Lee failed to establish a constitutional deprivation, causation, or an actual injury.

HOLDINGS

1. Defendants were entitled to summary judgment because Lee did not establish an objectively serious deprivation of toilet access or other extreme deprivation. The evidence showed that he used the bathroom during the incidents described and was punished afterward, rather than being denied access to the toilet.
2. Burton was entitled to summary judgment because Lee failed to establish that Burton's conduct caused him an actual injury.
3. Summary judgment was proper because, on the record as a whole, no reasonable factfinder could find for Lee on either claim.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The Eighth Amendment can be violated by conditions of confinement in a jail or prison when (1) there is a deprivation that is, from an objective standpoint, sufficiently serious that it results 'in the denial of the minimal civilized measure of life's necessities' and (2) where prison officials are deliberately indifferent to this state of affairs." (8)

"For a § 1983 claim to survive summary judgment, a plaintiff 'must establish not only that a state actor violated his constitutional rights, but also that the violation caused the plaintiff injury or damages.'" (9)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Lee, who was housed at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution, suffered from ulcerative colitis and related urinary and bowel symptoms. Health Services entered a special handling note stating that he might need to use the restroom more frequently, while allowing security staff discretion during count or when the restroom was closed. After Lee used the bathroom during count, received conduct reports, and ultimately lost the special handling note, he sued prison officials, alleging unconstitutional conditions of confinement and deliberate indifference to his medical needs. The record showed that Lee was able to use the bathroom during the incidents described and did not provide specific evidence tying any claimed soiling incidents to Burton or the other defendants.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Lee was permitted to proceed on Eighth Amendment conditions-of-confinement claims against all defendants and an Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference-to-medical-needs claim against Burton. After the parties completed briefing on defendants' motion for summary judgment, the court granted the motion on the merits and dismissed the action. The court did not reach defendants' qualified-immunity argument.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986)
- Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 324 (1986)
- Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 587 (1986)
- Gunville v. Walker, 583 F.3d 979, 985 (7th Cir. 2009)
- Durkin v. Equifax Check Services, Inc., 406 F.3d 410, 414 (7th Cir. 2005)
- Turner v. J.V.D.B. & Associates, Inc., 330 F.3d 991, 994 (7th Cir. 2003)
- Gray v. Hardy, 826 F.3d 1000, 1005 (7th Cir. 2016)
- Giles v. Godinez, 914 F.3d 1040, 1051 (7th Cir. 2019)
- Hudson v. McMillian, 503 U.S. 1, 9 (1992)
- Jaros v. Illinois Department of Corrections, 684 F.3d 667, 670 (7th Cir. 2012)
- Harris v. Jones, Case No. 20-1625, 2021 WL 4950248, at *2 (7th Cir. Oct. 25, 2021)
- Dellis v. Corrections Corporation of America, 257 F.3d 508, 511 (6th Cir. 2001)
- Hardaway v. Meyerhoff, 734 F.3d 740, 743 (7th Cir. 2013)
- Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472, 484 (1995)
- Hunter v. Mueske, 73 F.4th 561, 565 (7th Cir. 2023)
- Roe v. Elyea, 631 F.3d 843, 864 (7th Cir. 2011)
- Gabb v. Wexford Health, 945 F.3d 1027, 1033 (7th Cir. 2019)
- Lord v. Beahm, 952 F.3d 902, 905 (7th Cir. 2020)
- Drake v. Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co., 134 F.3d 878, 887 (7th Cir. 1998)