

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA, MONROE DIVISION

Alvin John Langsford, III v. Judge Jerry Edwards, Jr., Morehouse
Parish Jail, et al.

Civil Action No. 25-1105 (W.D. La. Dec. 1, 2025) (report and recommendation) · No. Civil Action No. 25-1105
· Decided December 1, 2025

SUMMARY

This Report and Recommendation addresses a pro se prisoner’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claims arising from alleged excessive force, failure to protect, denial or delay of medical care, unsafe confinement, retaliation, and related conditions at Morehouse Parish Jail. The magistrate judge recommends retaining claims against Lieutenant Don Taylor and Warden Trevor Wilhite concerning excessive force, failure to protect, and certain medical-care allegations, while dismissing other claims and requests for criminal prosecution or employment discipline.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Monroe Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kayla Ive McClusky, United States Magistrate Judge
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Monroe Division
DECIDED	December 1, 2025
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 25-1105
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis brought an action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The magistrate judge conducted preliminary screening under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915A and 1915(e)(2) and issued a report and recommendation proposing to retain several excessive-force, failure-to-protect, and medical-care claims while dismissing the remaining claims with prejudice.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915A(b) and 1915(e)(2), the court may dismiss a prisoner or in forma pauperis complaint sua sponte if it is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim, or seeks monetary relief from an immune defendant. The court accepts well-pleaded factual allegations

	as true, construes a pro se complaint liberally, and determines whether the allegations state a facially plausible claim under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8 and the Twombly/Iqbal standard.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Alvin John Langsford, III v. Judge Jerry Edwards, Jr., Morehouse Parish Jail, Mike Tubbs, Trevor Wilhite, Don Taylor

TOPICS

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Langsford plausibly stated an Eighth Amendment excessive-force claim against Lieutenant Taylor.
2. Whether Langsford plausibly stated an Eighth Amendment failure-to-protect claim against Warden Wilhite concerning Taylor's use of the mace-ball rifle.
3. Whether Langsford plausibly stated deliberate-indifference claims against Taylor and Wilhite for failure to provide mace decontamination and wound care.
4. Whether Langsford plausibly stated a deliberate-indifference claim against Taylor for delaying follow-up wound care after Langsford's hospital visit.
5. Whether the allegation that Morehouse Parish Jail lacked on-site medical staff during the night shift stated a constitutional claim.
6. Whether vague, group-pleading allegations against defendants, supervisory-liability allegations, and claims concerning unidentified actors stated claims under § 1983.
7. Whether Langsford could obtain monetary compensation for mental or emotional injuries under 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(e) without a related physical injury.
8. Whether the court could order criminal prosecution, firing, or demotion of the defendants.
9. Whether Morehouse Parish Jail was an entity capable of being sued under Louisiana law.

HOLDINGS

1. Langsford plausibly stated an Eighth Amendment excessive-force claim against Lieutenant Taylor because the alleged choking, attempted leg break, and shooting with a mace-ball rifle caused more-than-de-minimis injuries and, as pleaded, were not applied in a good-faith effort to maintain or restore discipline.
2. Langsford plausibly stated an Eighth Amendment failure-to-protect claim against Warden Wilhite.

3. Langsford plausibly stated deliberate-indifference claims against Taylor and Wilhite for failing to provide or arrange mace decontamination and wound care after the shooting.
4. Langsford plausibly stated a deliberate-indifference claim against Taylor for disregarding requests for follow-up wound care after Langsford returned from the hospital.
5. The allegation that Morehouse Parish Jail lacked on-site medical staff during the night shift did not, standing alone, state a plausible constitutional violation.
6. Langsford was not entitled to an order directing criminal prosecution or the firing or demotion of defendants.
7. Morehouse Parish Jail was not a juridical person capable of being sued under Louisiana law.
8. Langsford's claims against Sheriff Tubbs and, except for the specifically retained claim, Warden Wilhite failed because they were based on supervisory status and vicarious liability rather than personal involvement or a causally connected unconstitutional policy.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“IT IS RECOMMENDED that—excepting Plaintiff Alvin John Langsford, III’s claims of excessive force against Lieutenant Taylor, claim that Warden Wilhite failed to protect him from Taylor shooting him with a mace rifle, claims that Taylor and Wilhite failed to provide decontamination measures and wound care after Taylor shot Plaintiff with mace, and claim that Taylor failed to provide wound care after Plaintiff returned from the hospital—Plaintiff’s claims, as well as his requests to fire, demote, and criminally charge Defendants, be DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE as legally frivolous and for failing to state claims on which relief may be granted.” (Recommendation)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Langsford alleged that Lieutenant Don Taylor choked him, attempted to bend his leg unnaturally, and later shot him four times with a mace-ball rifle while he was naked, compliant, and facing a wall. He alleged that Warden Trevor Wilhite allowed the shooting and that Taylor and Wilhite left him for hours without decontamination, wound care, clothing, or a clean cell. Langsford further alleged that Taylor disregarded requests for follow-up wound care after a hospital visit, resulting in an infection. He also asserted various claims concerning housing conditions, failure to protect from other inmates, retaliation, access to religious materials and counsel, grievances, supervisory liability, and requests to criminally charge or discipline defendants.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Langsford filed the action in approximately August 2025 while incarcerated at St. Tammany Parish Jail. The matter was referred to the magistrate judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636 for screening and a report and recommendation. The recommendation proposed dismissal with prejudice of claims and requested relief that were legally frivolous or failed to state a claim, while allowing specified claims against Lieutenant Taylor and Warden Wilhite to proceed.

DISPOSITION

CASES CITED

- Martin v. Scott, 156 F.3d 578, 579-80 (5th Cir. 1998) (per curiam)
- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325, 327 (1989)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555-56, 570 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 677-78 (2009)
- Bradley v. Puckett, 157 F.3d 1022, 1025 (5th Cir. 1998)
- Montoya v. FedEx Ground Package Sys., Inc., 614 F.3d 145, 148 (5th Cir. 2010)
- City of Clinton, Ark. v. Pilgrim's Pride Corp., 632 F.3d 148, 152-53 (5th Cir. 2011)
- Macias v. Raul A. (Unknown) Badge No. 153, 23 F.3d 94, 97 (5th Cir. 1994)
- Wilson v. Barrientos, 926 F.2d 480, 483 n.4 (5th Cir. 1991)
- Green v. McKaskle, 788 F.2d 1116, 1120 (5th Cir. 1986)
- Whitley v. Hanna, 726 F.3d 631, 638 (5th Cir. 2013)
- Fee v. Herndon, 900 F.2d 804, 807 (5th Cir. 1990)
- Hudson v. McMillian, 503 U.S. 1, 6, 7, 9 (1992)
- Whitley v. Albers, 475 U.S. 312, 320-21 (1986)
- Perez v. Collier, 2021 WL 4095263, at *2 (5th Cir. Sept. 8, 2021)
- Gomez v. Chandler, 163 F.3d 921, 923 (5th Cir. 1999)
- Alderson v. Concordia Par. Corr. Facility, 848 F.3d 415, 420 (5th Cir. 2017)
- Adames v. Perez, 331 F.3d 508, 515 (5th Cir. 2003)
- Bailey v. E. Baton Rouge Par. Prison, 663 F. App'x 328, 330 (5th Cir. 2016)
- Wagner v. Bay City, 227 F.3d 316, 324 (5th Cir. 2000)
- Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 842, 847 (1994)
- Gobert v. Caldwell, 463 F.3d 339, 346 (5th Cir. 2006)
- Blank v. Bell, 634 F. App'x 445, 448 (5th Cir. 2016)
- Alton v. Tex. A & M Univ., 168 F.3d 196, 201 (5th Cir. 1999)
- Frazier v. Keith, 707 F. App'x 823, 824 (5th Cir. 2018)
- Brown v. Megg, 857 F.3d 287, 290 (5th Cir. 2017)
- Hoptowit v. Ray, 682 F.2d 1237, 1253 (9th Cir. 1982)
- Clyce v. Hunt Cnty., Tex., 515 F. App'x 319, 325 (5th Cir. 2013)
- Anderson v. Marshall Cnty., Miss., 637 F. App'x 127, 133-34 (5th Cir. 2016)
- Armstrong v. Ashley, 60 F.4th 262, 274-75 (5th Cir. 2023)
- Martinez v. City of N. Richland Hills, 846 F. App'x 238, 243 (5th Cir. 2021)
- Jones v. Hosemann, 812 F. App'x 235, 238-39 (5th Cir. 2020)
- Oliver v. Collins, 914 F.2d 56, 60 (5th Cir. 1990)

- United States v. Lawrence, 179 F.3d 343, 348 (5th Cir. 1999)
- United States v. Batchelder, 442 U.S. 114, 124 (1979)
- Royal v. Clark, 447 F.2d 501, 501-02 (5th Cir. 1971)
- Shaw v. Murphy, 532 U.S. 223, 230 (2001)
- Turner v. Safley, 482 U.S. 78, 84-85 (1987)
- Samuels v. Emanuel, 2014 WL 50851, at *2 (W.D. La. Jan. 7, 2014)
- Delgado v. U.S. Marshals, 618 F. App'x 236, 237 (5th Cir. 2015)
- Mouille v. City of Live Oak, Tex., 977 F.2d 924, 929 (5th Cir. 1992)
- Pierce v. Texas Dept. of Crim. Justice, Inst. Div., 37 F.3d 1146, 1150 (5th Cir. 1994)
- Brown v. Taylor, 911 F.3d 235, 245 (5th Cir. 2018)
- Evett v. Deep E. Tex. Reg'l Narcotics Trafficking Task Force, 330 F.3d 681, 689 (5th Cir. 2003)
- Thompson v. Belt, 828 F.2d 298, 305 (5th Cir. 1987)
- Lott v. Edenfield, 542 F. App'x 311, 315 (5th Cir. 2013)
- Armstrong v. Price, 190 F. App'x 350, 353 (5th Cir. 2006)
- Douglass v. United Services Automobile Association, 79 F.3d 1415 (5th Cir. 1996)