

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA, FORT MYERS DIVISION

Stanley B. Daniels v. Sheriff of Hendry County Jail, et al.

Case No. 2:25-cv-1089-KCD-DNF · No. 2:25-cv-1089-KCD-DNF · Decided December 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida dismissed Stanley Byron Daniels's fourth substantially identical 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint concerning injuries allegedly caused by a desk collapsing in his Hendry County Jail cell. The court held that the complaint failed to state a claim and alternatively was barred by res judicata because Daniels's prior complaints asserting the same claims had been dismissed on the merits. The dismissal was with prejudice as frivolous and for failure to state a claim.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kyle C. Dudek
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division
DECIDED	December 10, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-1089-KCD-DNF
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A pro se prisoner filed a fourth substantially identical civil-rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The district court screened the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A and dismissed it with prejudice as frivolous and for failure to state a claim, alternatively holding that res judicata barred the action.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A; the complaint was assessed for whether it stated a claim on which relief could be granted and whether it was frivolous or barred by res judicata.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	district court order; precedential status not stated
PARTIES	Stanley B. Daniels v. Sheriff of Hendry County Jail, et al.

TOPICS

section 1983

prisoners rights

res judicata

motions to dismiss

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights

prisoner civil rights

civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the fourth substantially identical complaint stated a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 or otherwise stated a claim on which relief could be granted.
2. Whether the action was barred by res judicata because Daniels had previously litigated substantially identical claims against the same defendants.
3. Whether the complaint should be dismissed as frivolous under the prisoner-screening statutes.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint failed to state a claim on which relief could be granted because it repeated the pleading deficiencies identified in Daniels I, Daniels II, and Daniels III and continued to assert negligence and medical-malpractice theories without facts establishing a constitutional violation.
2. The complaint was alternatively barred by res judicata because Daniels had already filed three virtually identical complaints against the same defendants concerning the same operative facts, and the earlier dismissals included adjudications on the merits for res judicata purposes.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Daniels’ complaint does not state a claim on which relief may be granted. Alternatively, because Daniels has already filed three virtually identical complaints that were dismissed on the merits, the case is barred by res judicata and dismissed as frivolous.” (Conclusion)

“This case is DISMISSED with prejudice as frivolous, and for failing to state a claim on which relief may be granted.” (Order)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Daniels alleged that a desk or table in his cell at the Hendry County Jail came unbolted or collapsed and injured his back, neck, toe, shoulder, or spine. He also continued to assert negligence and medical-malpractice theories based on alleged failures by jail officials and medical staff. The present complaint was substantially identical to three earlier complaints involving the same incident, defendants, and operative facts, with additional handwritten allegations concerning exhaustion.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Daniels previously filed three complaints arising from the same alleged jail-desk incident. Daniels I was dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2), Daniels II was dismissed for failure to state a deliberate-indifference claim and for failure to exhaust administrative remedies, and Daniels III was dismissed with prejudice as unexhausted, for failure to state a claim, and as barred by res judicata. Daniels then filed this fourth complaint,

largely copying Daniels III and adding handwritten exhaustion allegations. The court dismissed the fourth complaint with prejudice and directed the clerk to enter judgment and close the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Wade v. McDade, 106 F.4th 1251, 1258 (11th Cir. 2024)
- Bryant v. Rich, 530 F.3d 1368, 1373 (11th Cir. 2008)
- Hilton v. Secretary, Department of Corrections, 170 F. App'x 600, 605 (11th Cir. 2005)
- Kitchens v. Wells, No. CV 323-012, 2023 WL 3294587, at *5 (S.D. Ga. May 5, 2023)
- Miller v. Pryor, 315 F. App'x 149, 150 (11th Cir. 2008)
- Harmon, 263 F. App'x at 845
- NAACP v. Hunt, 891 F.2d 1555, 1560 (11th Cir. 1990)
- Baltimore S.S. Co. v. Phillips, 274 U.S. 316, 325 (1927)