

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
ILLINOIS

**Michael L. Schuttpelz v. USA, Ms. Curry, Stephen Ardrey, T.
Huckelberry, Daniel Sproul, Mr. Wallace, Ms. Tapeley, Dr. Owings,
Ms. Deitrick, Ms. Dunning, C. Brooks, Jennie McGlynn Emmons,
Bryan Taube, Nestleroad, Steve Benner, Karl Haws, John N. O’Brien,
II, Christopher S. Pennisi, G. Thomas Winterhalter, Kevin Malcahy,
and Stephen J. Murphy**

No. 25-cv-01847-JPG (S.D. Ill. Dec. 1, 2025) · No. 25-cv-01847-JPG · Decided December 1, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois dismissed Michael Schuttpelz’s Bivens action against the United States and individual defendants. The court held that the claims concerning disciplinary punishment, prolonged segregation, prison transfer, and allegedly unlawful custody presented contexts not recognized under Bivens and were therefore dismissed with prejudice under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
WRITING FOR THE COURT	J. Phil Gilbert
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
DECIDED	December 1, 2025
DOCKET	25-cv-01847-JPG
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Screening of a federal prisoner’s pro se complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The complaint was liberally construed at the screening stage, and dismissal was required under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A when claims were legally frivolous, malicious, failed to state a claim, or sought damages from an immune defendant.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

prisoners rights civil rights due process remedies civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure civil rights prisoner litigation constitutional law federal courts

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Schuttpelz's claims concerning disciplinary punishment, prolonged special-housing placement, prison transfer, and the basis of his federal custody were cognizable damages claims under Bivens.
2. Whether the complaint stated claims warranting relief under the Prison Litigation Reform Act screening provision, 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

HOLDINGS

1. Counts 1 through 4 present new contexts not previously recognized by the Supreme Court, and the court declined to extend a Bivens damages remedy to those claims.
2. The complaint failed to state a claim upon which relief could be granted, so Counts 1 through 4 and the entire action were dismissed with prejudice.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Schuttpelz, a federal inmate, alleged that prison officials issued him a disciplinary ticket, imposed segregation and other sanctions, and kept him in the special housing unit beyond the end of his 21-day punishment. He also alleged that officials transferred him from USP-Marion without a lawful separation order and that various federal officials participated in an abuse of process resulting in his allegedly false imprisonment. He sought damages under Bivens against the United States, prison employees, federal prosecutors, FBI personnel, and other individuals.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Michael Schuttpelz filed a Bivens action seeking money damages from the United States and twenty individual defendants based on disciplinary proceedings, continued placement in a special housing unit, transfer between federal facilities, and the assertedly unlawful basis of his federal custody. The district court screened the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A and dismissed all four designated counts with prejudice for failure to state a claim. The court directed the Clerk to close the case and enter judgment.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics, 403 U.S. 388, 392 (1971)
- Rodriguez v. Plymouth Ambulance Service, 577 F.3d 816, 821 (7th Cir. 2009)

- Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- Davis v. Passman, 442 U.S. 228 (1979)
- Carlson v. Green, 446 U.S. 14 (1980)
- Ziglar v. Abbasi, 582 U.S. 120, 133 (2017)
- Egbert v. Boule, 596 U.S. 482, 492 (2022)
- Goree v. Serio, 735 F. App'x 894 (7th Cir. 2018)
- Lucien v. Jockisch, 133 F.3d 464, 467 (7th Cir. 1998)

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