

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
INDIANA, FORT WAYNE DIVISION

Ricky L. Ruch v. Allen County Jail

Ruch · No. 1:25-CV-632-TLS-JEM · Decided December 4, 2025

SUMMARY

The court dismissed Allen County Jail as a defendant because it is a building and not a suable entity. It granted Ricky L. Ruch until December 30, 2025, to file the required ledger and an amended complaint selecting and properly pleading one related claim, and warned that failure to respond would result in dismissal under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, Fort Wayne Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Theresa L. Springmann
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, Fort Wayne Division
DECIDED	December 4, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-CV-632-TLS-JEM
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Initial screening of a pro se prisoner civil-rights complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A; the complaint must state a claim on which relief may be granted.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; unpublished district court opinion and order

TOPICS

- joinder
- pleadings
- section 1983
- prisoners rights
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil procedure
- Prisoner civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether unrelated claims involving different incidents may proceed together in one prisoner complaint.
2. Whether the Allen County Jail is a suable entity.
3. Whether the plaintiff should be granted leave to select a properly joined claim and amend the complaint.

HOLDINGS

1. Unrelated claims concerning different injuries and defendants may not proceed together in the same complaint; the plaintiff may be directed to choose which properly joined and related claims to pursue in the current case and bring any other claim in a separate action.
2. The Allen County Jail is not a suable entity because it is a building rather than a legal entity capable of being sued.
3. The pro se prisoner was granted until December 30, 2025, to file a ledger and an amended complaint addressing the misjoinder and naming a proper defendant.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“unrelated claims against different defendants belong in different suits.” (at 1)

“to file separate complaints, each confined to one group of injuries and defendants” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Ruch, a prisoner proceeding without counsel, alleged that he suffered a hand injury on November 13, 2025, and separately slipped and fell on November 14, 2025. The complaint named only the Allen County Jail as defendant. The court treated the two incidents as unrelated and determined that the jail, as a building, was not a suable entity.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Ricky L. Ruch filed a complaint alleging separate events involving a hand injury and a slip-and-fall. The court found the claims unrelated and misjoined, dismissed the Allen County Jail as a defendant because it is not a suable entity, and granted Ruch leave to file a ledger and an amended complaint identifying one related claim and a proper defendant.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- George v. Smith, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007)
- Wheeler v. Wexford Health Sources, Inc., 689 F.3d 680, 683 (7th Cir. 2012)
- Smith v. Knox County Jail, 666 F.3d 1037, 1040 (7th Cir. 2012)

OPINION

Ruch

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
FORT WAYNE DIVISION

RICKY L. RUCH,

Plaintiff,

v. CAUSE NO. 1:25-CV-632-TLS-JEM

ALLEN COUNTY JAIL,

Defendant.

OPINION AND ORDER

Ricky L. Ruch, a prisoner without a lawyer, filed a complaint with unrelated claims. ECF

1. The complaint alleges he suffered a hand injury on November 13, 2025. It alleges he slipped and fell on November 14, 2025. These are different events, and “unrelated claims against different defendants belong in different suits.” *George v. Smith*, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007). When a plaintiff files a complaint with unrelated or mis-joined claims, the court may allow the plaintiff to decide which properly joined and related claims to pursue in the current case and when (or if) to bring the other claims in separate suits. See *Wheeler v. Wexford Health Sources, Inc.*, 689 F.3d 680, 683 (7th Cir. 2012) (finding that district courts may direct a plaintiff “to file separate complaints, each confined to one group of injuries and defendants”). Lane needs to decide which claim to bring in this case. If he wants to pursue the other claim, he must file a separate lawsuit. The amended complaint must also name a proper defendant. This complaint sues only the Allen County Jail, but it is a building. It is not a suable entity. See *Smith v. Knox County Jail*, 666 F.3d 1037, 1040 (7th Cir. 2012). For these reasons, the court:

(1) DISMISSES the Allen County Jail;

(2) GRANTS Ricky L. Ruch until December 30, 2025, to file his ledger and an amended complaint; and

(3) CAUTIONS Ricky L. Ruch if he does not respond by the deadline, this case will be dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A without further notice because this complaint does not state a claim for which relief can be granted. SO ORDERED on December 4, 2025. s/ Theresa L. Springmann

JUDGE THERESA L. SPRINGMANN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT