

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
ILLINOIS, ROCK ISLAND DIVISION

Jamison Fisher v. Henry County Jail et al.

Fisher · No. 25-4209 · Decided February 4, 2026

SUMMARY

The court screened Jamison Fisher’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint alleging denial of prescribed ADHD medication during detention at the Henry and Scott County Jails. It dismissed the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1) because Fisher named jails rather than individual persons, denied his motions to add plaintiffs and waive the filing fee, and granted leave to file an amended complaint.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Rock Island Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Colleen R. Lawless
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Rock Island Division
DECIDED	February 4, 2026
DOCKET	25-4209
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Screening of a detainee's pro se complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, together with motions to add plaintiffs and to waive the filing fee or dismiss the case.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the court accepts factual allegations as true and construes them liberally in the plaintiff's favor, but dismisses claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim, or seek monetary relief from an immune defendant. Conclusory statements and labels are insufficient; the complaint must state a claim that is plausible on its face.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order
PARTIES	Jamison Fisher v. Henry County Jail et al.

TOPICS

section 1983

prisoners rights

pleadings

joinder

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights

prisoner litigation

federal civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint stated a viable § 1983 claim when it named county jails rather than individual persons responsible for the alleged denial of medical care.
2. Whether the plaintiff could add other plaintiffs to his § 1983 action.
3. Whether the court had authority to waive the statutory filing fee altogether.
4. Whether unrelated claims and defendants could be joined in an amended pleading.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint failed to state a federal claim because a jail or correctional facility is not a suable person under § 1983, and the pleading did not identify individual defendants personally responsible for the alleged constitutional violation.
2. A pretrial detainee alleging inadequate medical care must plead that the medical condition was objectively serious, that the defendant acted purposefully, knowingly, or recklessly concerning the consequences, and that the defendant's actions were objectively unreasonable.
3. The motion to add plaintiffs was denied because § 1983 claims are personal to the injured party.
4. The motion to waive the filing fee or dismiss the case was denied because the court lacked statutory authority to waive the fee altogether, although payment in installments may be available to an in forma pauperis plaintiff.
5. Unrelated claims against unrelated defendants may not be joined in the amended pleading; multiple claims against a single defendant may be joined, but unrelated claims against different defendants may not.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A building, such as a jail or correctional facility, cannot be sued under § 1983.”

“Plaintiff’s pleading must identify the individual defendants responsible for the alleged unconstitutional conduct; in other words, there must not be any “genuine uncertainty regarding who is responsible for what.””

“The Court does not accept piecemeal amendments.”

“Courts may allow a plaintiff proceeding in forma pauperis to pay the fee in monthly installments, but they lack the statutory authority to waive the fee altogether.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jamison Fisher, a detainee, alleged that he was denied prescription medication for ADHD while detained at the Scott County Jail and that the denial was continuing at the Henry County Jail. His pleading named the Henry and Scott County Jails as defendants, rather than individual persons allegedly responsible for the denial. He also sought to add other plaintiffs and to waive the filing fee or dismiss the case.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a § 1983 complaint alleging denial of prescription medication for ADHD during detention at the Scott County Jail and Henry County Jail. The court screened the complaint, denied the motions to add plaintiffs and to waive the filing fee or dismiss the case, dismissed the complaint for failure to state a federal claim, and granted leave to file a second amended complaint within thirty days.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Turley v. Rednour, 729 F.3d 645, 649 (7th Cir. 2013)
- Alexander v. United States, 721 F.3d 418, 422 (7th Cir. 2013)
- Snyder v. King, 745 F.3d 242, 246 (7th Cir. 2014)
- Hardeman v. Curran, 933 F.3d 816, 827 (7th Cir. 2019)
- Bell v. Blaesing, 844 F. App'x 924, 925 (7th Cir. 2021)
- Smith v. Knox Cty. Jail, 666 F.3d 1037, 1040 (7th Cir. 2012)
- White v. Knight, 710 F. App'x 260, 262 (7th Cir. 2018)
- Engel v. Buchan, 710 F.3d 698, 710 (7th Cir. 2013)
- Grieveson v. Anderson, 538 F.3d 763, 778 (7th Cir. 2008)
- Gentry v. Duckworth, 65 F.3d 555, 561 (7th Cir. 1995)
- George v. Smith, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007)
- Ray v. Maher, 662 F.3d 770, 773–74 (7th Cir. 2011)
- Russ v. Watts, 414 F.3d 783, 790 (7th Cir. 2005)
- Claybrook v. Birchwell, 199 F.3d 350, 357 (6th Cir. 2000)
- Butler v. Deal, 794 F. App'x 542, 544 (7th Cir. 2020)
- Maus v. Baker, 729 F.3d 708, 709 (7th Cir. 2014)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS ROCK ISLAND DIVISION JAMISON FISHER,) Plaintiff,)) v.) Case No. 25-4209) HENRY COUNTY JAIL et al.,) Defendants.) ORDER COLLEEN R. LAWLESS, United States District Judge: Before the Court is a Complaint (Doc. 1) filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by Plaintiff Jamison Fisher, a detainee at the Henry County Jail (“Jail”).

Plaintiff also filed a Motion to Add Plaintiffs (Doc. 3) and a Motion to Waive Filing Fee or Dismiss Case (Doc. 8). I. Complaint A. Screening Standard The Court must “screen” Plaintiff’s complaint and dismiss any legally insufficient claim or the entire action if warranted. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A. A claim is legally insufficient if it “(1) is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or (2) seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.” *Id.* Upon reviewing the complaint, the Court accepts the factual allegations as accurate, construing them liberally in Plaintiff’s favor.

Turley v. Rednour, 729 F.3d 645, 649 (7th Cir. 2013). However, conclusory statements and labels are insufficient. Enough facts must be provided to “state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face.” *Alexander v. United States*, 721 F.3d 418, 422 (7th Cir. 2013) (citation omitted). B. Facts Alleged Plaintiff’s amended pleading names the Henry and Scott County Jails as Defendants.

Plaintiff’s claims concern the denial of his prescription medication for Attention- Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, which he asserts occurred during his detention at the Scott County Jail and is occurring during his detention at the Henry County Jail. (Pl. Compl., Doc 1 at 1.) C. Analysis “Section 1983 only permits an individual to sue a ‘person’ who deprives that individual of his or her federally-guaranteed rights under color of state law.” *Snyder v. King*, 745 F.3d 242, 246 (7th Cir.

2014). To prevail on a claim alleging inadequate medical care, a pretrial detainee must prove three elements: (1) the medical condition is or was objectively serious; (2) the defendant acted purposefully, knowingly, or recklessly concerning the consequences of his actions; and (3) the defendant’s actions were objectively unreasonable—that is, not rationally related to a legitimate governmental objective.

Hardeman v. Curran, 933 F.3d 816, 827 (7th Cir. 2019); see also *Bell v. Blaesing*, 844 F. App’x 924, 925 (7th Cir. 2021) (“[A]s a civil detainee, [the plaintiff] needed to plead only that [the defendant’s] care was objectively unreasonable rather than deliberately indifferent.”). A building, such as a jail or correctional facility, cannot be sued under § 1983.

Smith v. Knox Cty. Jail, 666 F.3d 1037, 1040 (7th Cir. 2012); see also *White v. Knight*, 710 F. App’x 260, 262 (7th Cir. 2018) (“[T]he fact that a building is owned by a corporate entity or a government agency does not make the building a suable person under § 1983.”). Plaintiff’s Complaint is dismissed as he does not name a person who deprived him of a constitutional right under color of state law.

Plaintiff’s pleading must identify the individual defendants responsible for the alleged unconstitutional conduct; in other words, there must not be any “genuine uncertainty regarding who is responsible for what.” *Engel v. Buchan*, 710 F.3d 698, 710 (7th Cir. 2013) (citing *Grieverson v. Anderson*, 538 F.3d 763, 778 (7th Cir. 2008) (plaintiffs may not rely on “[v]ague

references to a group of ‘defendants,’ without specific allegations tying the individual defendants to the alleged unconstitutional conduct”)).

Consequently, Plaintiff’s Complaint is dismissed. However, if Plaintiff believes he can revise his pleading to state a cause of action, he may file a Motion for Leave to File a Second Amended Complaint. If Plaintiff elects to file, his second amended pleading must be attached to his motion for leave.

The Court does not accept piecemeal amendments. Plaintiff’s claims must stand independently without reference to his initial filing and contain all claims against all defendants. Plaintiff must specify the constitutional violation, when it occurred, and the Defendant or Defendants personally involved. See *Gentry v. Duckworth*, 65 F.3d 555, 561 (7th Cir. 1995) (“To recover damages under § 1983, a plaintiff must establish that a defendant was personally responsible for the deprivation of a constitutional right.”).

The Court informs Plaintiff that any attempt to join unrelated claims and defendants is not permitted. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 20(a)(2). In other words, multiple claims against a single defendant are allowed, but “Claim A against Defendant 1 should not be joined with unrelated Claim B against Defendant 2.” *George v. Smith*, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007). II.

Additional Plaintiffs and Filing Fee Waiver Plaintiff’s Motion to Add Plaintiffs (Doc. 3) is denied. See *Ray v. Maher*, 662 F.3d 770, 773–74 (7th Cir. 2011) (“[Section] 1983 claims are personal to the injured party.”) (citing *Russ v. Watts*, 414 F.3d 783, 790 (7th Cir. 2005)) (holding that parents may sue only for constitutional injury to themselves, not for constitutional injuries to their son); see also *Claybrook v. Birchwell*, 199 F.3d 350, 357 (6th Cir.

2000) (holding that a § 1983 claim is “entirely personal to the direct victim of the alleged constitutional tort... only the purported victim, or his estate’s representative(s), may prosecute a section 1983 claim”). Plaintiff’s Motion to Waive Filing Fee or Dismiss Case (Doc. 8) is denied. Plaintiff claims he was unaware he would have to pay a reduced filing fee of \$350.

Plaintiff seeks dismissal of this case if that would relieve him of his filing fee obligation; if not, he requests to continue with his lawsuit. The Court informs Plaintiff that the filing fee cannot be waived. See *Butler v. Deal*, 794 F. App’x 542, 544 (7th Cir. 2020) (“Courts may allow a plaintiff proceeding in forma pauperis to pay the fee in monthly installments, but they lack the statutory authority to waive the fee altogether.”) (citing *Maus v. Baker*, 729 F.3d 708, 709 (7th Cir.

2014)). IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED: 1) Plaintiff’s Motions to Add Plaintiffs (Doc. 3) and to Waive Filing Fee or Dismiss Case (Doc. 8) are DENIED. 2) Plaintiff’s Complaint (Doc. 1) is DISMISSED under 28 U.S.C. 1915A(b)(1) for failure to state a federal claim. 3) Plaintiff is GRANTED leave to file an amended complaint within thirty days of the entry of this order and in compliance with the Court’s guidance.

If Plaintiff does not file an amendment on or before the deadline established or fails to comply with the provided instructions, the Court will dismiss Plaintiff's case without prejudice.

ENTERED February 4, 2026. s/ Colleen R. Lawless

COLLEEN R. LAWLESS UNITED STATES
DISTRICT JUDGE