

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

Dion Jermaine Anderson v. Elizabeth Vargas

Anderson v. Vargas · No. 25-cv-1230-bhl · Decided February 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin grants Dion Jermaine Anderson’s motion to proceed in forma pauperis in his 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action. The court finds that the complaint is too vague to satisfy Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8 and permits Anderson to file an amended complaint by March 30, 2026. The order also directs collection of the remaining filing fee under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Brett H. Ludwig
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
DECIDED	February 27, 2026
DOCKET	25-cv-1230-bhl
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A prisoner proceeding pro se filed a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint and moved to proceed in forma pauperis. The district court granted in forma pauperis status, screened the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, found the pleading deficient under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8, and permitted an amended complaint.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court screened the prisoner complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A and evaluated whether it complied with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8 and stated a plausible claim for relief.
PARTIES	Dion Jermaine Anderson v. Elizabeth Vargas

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Anderson qualified to proceed without prepaying the full filing fee under the Prison Litigation Reform Act.

2. Whether the complaint satisfied Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8 and stated a plausible claim for relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
3. Whether Anderson should be permitted to amend the deficient complaint before dismissal.

HOLDINGS

1. A prisoner who submits the required certified trust-account statement and pays the assessed initial partial filing fee may proceed without prepaying the full filing fee, while remaining responsible for paying the full filing fee over time.
2. The complaint did not satisfy Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8 because its vague allegations failed to provide sufficient factual information about what the defendant did or failed to do, how that conduct violated Anderson's constitutional rights, and how Anderson was injured.
3. Anderson was permitted to file an amended complaint curing the identified pleading deficiencies by March 30, 2026; if no amended complaint was filed, the action would be dismissed for failure to state a claim in the original complaint.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Anderson, who was serving a state prison sentence and proceeding pro se, alleged that supervising agent Elizabeth Vargas blocked his wife's visit with him on April 10, 2025, while he was confined at the Waukesha County Jail. The complaint appeared to connect the blocked visit to a possible child-protective-services complaint involving Anderson's twelve-year-old niece appearing in a video holding a gun with a laser beam, but it did not explain the relationship between those events, Vargas's conduct, and any constitutional injury.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Anderson filed a civil-rights complaint concerning the blocking of his wife's visit while he was confined at the Waukesha County Jail. He submitted the required prison trust-account statement and paid the initial partial filing fee. The court granted leave to proceed without prepaying the full filing fee, determined that the complaint failed to provide sufficient factual information to state a plausible claim, and allowed Anderson until March 30, 2026, to amend.

DISPOSITION

other