

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH
CAROLINA

Maurio Daetrel Rivers v. Bryan P. Stirling, SCDC Director; Arenda
Thomas, LCI Associate Warden; Lt. Vernon Adams, SCDC/CERT
Officer

Rivers v. Stirling · No. 4:25-cv-13951-BHH · Decided March 26, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of South Carolina adopted a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation in a pro se action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The court dismissed Bryan Stirling without prejudice, dismissed all claims other than the excessive-force haircut claims against Vernon Adams and Arenda Thomas, and denied the plaintiff’s motions for a temporary injunction.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Bruce H. Hendricks
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
DECIDED	March 26, 2026
DOCKET	4:25-cv-13951-BHH
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought a pro se action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. After referral, a magistrate judge recommended partial dismissal, dismissal of certain defendants and claims without prejudice, and denial of motions for temporary injunction. No objections were filed, and the district court reviewed the recommendation for clear error.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	In the absence of specific objections to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation, the district court reviews the recommendation for clear error on the face of the record; specific objections would require de novo review of the challenged portions.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential district court order

PARTIES

Maurio Daetrel Rivers v. Bryan P. Stirling, SCDC Director, Arenda Thomas, LCI Associate Warden, Lt. Vernon Adams, SCDC/CERT Officer

TOPICS

section 1983 prisoners rights civil rights injunctions civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

prisoner civil rights federal civil procedure injunctive relief

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the magistrate judge's report and recommendation should be accepted when no party filed specific objections.
2. Whether Plaintiff's complaint should be partially dismissed without prejudice, including dismissal of Bryan Stirling and claims unrelated to the alleged excessive-force haircut incident.
3. Whether Plaintiff's motions for temporary injunction should be denied.

HOLDINGS

1. When no specific objections are filed, the district court reviews the magistrate judge's recommendation for clear error rather than conducting de novo review.
2. The complaint was properly partially dismissed without prejudice: Bryan Stirling was dismissed without issuance and service of process, and all claims other than the claims against Adams and Thomas concerning the alleged excessive-force haircut incident were dismissed.
3. Plaintiff's motions for temporary injunction were denied.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"in the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must 'only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.'" (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Maurio Daetrel Rivers, a prisoner proceeding pro se, filed a complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against South Carolina Department of Corrections officials. His claims included allegations concerning an excessive-force haircut incident, as well as other claims against the defendants. He also filed motions for temporary injunction.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The magistrate judge recommended summarily dismissing Bryan Stirling without prejudice and without issuance and service of process, allowing service on Arenda Thomas and Lt. Vernon Adams only as to claims concerning an alleged excessive-force haircut incident, dismissing the remaining claims without prejudice, and denying

Plaintiff's motions for temporary injunction. Plaintiff filed no objections. The district court found no clear error, adopted and incorporated the report and recommendation, partially dismissed the complaint, and denied the injunction motions.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Mathews v. Weber, 423 U.S. 261 (1976)
- Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Ins. Co., 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005)

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