

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
ILLINOIS

**Janiah Monroe, Marilyn Melendez, Lydia Heléna Vision, Sora
Kuykendall, and Sasha Reed v. Lamenta Conway, Melvin Hinton,
and Latoya Hughes**

Monroe · No. 3:18-CV-00156-NJR · Decided December 11, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois issued a preliminary injunction concerning the transfer and placement of incarcerated class members diagnosed with gender dysphoria. The order directs Defendants to transfer qualifying individuals from Menard Correctional Center, consider specified medical, safety, security, and gender-identity factors, provide advance written notice, and submit monthly reports and records to the Court and Plaintiffs’ counsel.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Nancy J. Rosenstengel
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
DECIDED	December 11, 2025
DOCKET	3:18-CV-00156-NJR
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court issued a preliminary injunction in a putative or certified class civil-rights action concerning the housing, evaluation, and transfer of incarcerated class members with gender dysphoria.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown

TOPICS

- injunctions
- class actions
- prisoners rights
- civil rights
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil rights
- prisoners rights
- class actions
- injunctions
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What preliminary injunctive requirements should govern the transfer, evaluation, placement, notice, and monitoring of class members housed at or entering Menard Correctional Center?
2. What specificity is required under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(1)(C) for the injunctive relief entered against the defendants?

HOLDINGS

1. The court ordered defendants to transfer class members housed at Menard to other facilities, consider specified medical, mental-health, gender-identity, safety, security, and placement criteria, provide advance written notice and reasons for transfer decisions, and allow certain transfer requests to facilities matching a class member's gender identity.
2. Defendants may not assign a person recognized as a class member to Menard as a permanent institution; when an individual housed at Menard requests a gender-dysphoria evaluation, IDOC must conduct the evaluation within seven working days, confirm the diagnosis within fourteen days in its discretion, and transfer a person confirmed with gender dysphoria within twenty-one days.
3. Defendants must provide monthly status reports to the court and plaintiffs' counsel and must produce monthly documentation concerning Menard class members, including transfer materials, grievances, PREA complaints and investigations, treatment notes, and medical and mental-health records identified in the order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Pursuant to Rule 65(d)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and MillerCoors LLC v. Anheuser-Busch Companies, LLC, 940 F.3d 922 (7th Cir. 2019), the Court issues the following preliminary injunctive relief.” (at 1)

“Defendants shall provide to the Court and to Plaintiffs’ counsel a monthly report, by the last day of each month, of the status of any known class member currently housed at Menard, including the timing and result of any pending, upcoming, or concluded transfer decisions.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The plaintiff class includes incarcerated individuals with gender dysphoria or related gender-identity and safety concerns. Some class members were housed at Menard Correctional Center, and the court had previously ordered transfers from Pinckneyville Correctional Center because of issues identified there. The order addresses transfer destinations, evaluation deadlines, notice, reporting, and production of records concerning class members housed at Menard.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The order modifies and carries forward provisions of an earlier preliminary injunction dated September 12, 2025, and references prior orders concerning the transfer of class members from Menard and Pinckneyville Correctional Centers. The court entered mandatory injunctive directives under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(1)(C).

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- MillerCoors LLC v. Anheuser-Busch Companies, LLC, 940 F.3d 922 (7th Cir. 2019)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS JANIAH MONROE, MARILYN MELENDEZ, LYDIA HELÉNA VISION, SORA KUYKENDALL, and SASHA REED, individually and on behalf of a class of similarly situated individuals, Plaintiffs, v. Case No. 3:18-CV-00156-NJR LAMENTA CONWAY, MELVIN HINTON, and LATOYA HUGHES, Defendants. PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION ROSENSTENGEL, Chief Judge: Pursuant to Rule 65(d)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and MillerCoors LLC v. Anheuser-Busch Companies, LLC, 940 F.3d 922 (7th Cir.

2019), the Court issues the following preliminary injunctive relief. The Court ORDERS as follows: 1. (former paragraph 2)¹ Defendants shall transfer any class member housed at Menard to another facility in accordance with the provisions below. Defendants shall take into consideration the individual's preference(s) as to the location of the transfer, but Defendants will make the final decision.

Given the Court's previous Order transferring class members out of Pinckneyville Correctional Center (Doc. 680), the Court cautions that class members not be transferred to Pinckneyville, to avoid recurrence of the issues that came to light there.

2. (former paragraph 3) In determining where each class member will be transferred, Defendants shall consider the individual's gender dysphoria condition (including related mental health considerations), gender identity, related safety issues, and ¹ See Preliminary Injunction dated September 12, 2025 (Doc. 1009) for each reference to "former paragraph". whether a transfer to a facility matching the individual's gender identity is appropriate.

Defendants shall also consider the transfer criteria they previously described to this Court (See Doc. 680, p. 31; Doc. 668, pp. 23-24) including: the length of time before the individual is eligible for release on MSR; their security level; any medical/mental health issues; any substance abuse issues; any security threat group issues; any enemy/KSF issues; any protective custody needs; the individual's previous adjustment at other facilities; the nature of the individual's commitment; the individual's vulnerable status; and whether the individual meets the criteria for the requested facility.

3. (former paragraph 4) Defendants shall notify each individual class member of their new placement in writing, at least seven days in advance of the physical transfer, stating where the individual will be moved. The notice shall explain the reason(s) for the placement/transfer decision and the consideration of each of the above criteria. A copy of each decision shall be simultaneously forwarded to class counsel.

4. (former paragraph 5) Going forward, no individual already identified as a member of the Plaintiff class shall be transferred to Menard. If a person arrives at Menard through the reception and classification process (intake) and is recognized by IDOC as a class member as part of IDOC's standard evaluation process, that class member shall not be assigned to Menard as their permanent institution.

If an individual already housed at Menard requests an evaluation for gender dysphoria, IDOC shall conduct the requested evaluation within seven working days² and confirm such diagnosis in its sole discretion within 14 days of the evaluation. Each person who is confirmed with a gender dysphoria diagnosis shall be transferred to a different facility within 21 days of such confirmation.

(See IDOC Administrative Directive No. 04.03.104, eff. 4/1/2021). 5. (former paragraph 6) Any class member transferred from Menard who is not moved to Logan or another facility matching their gender identity shall be allowed to submit a transfer request to Logan or another facility matching their gender identity within 60 days of their initial transfer.

6. (former paragraph 7) Defendants shall provide to the Court and to Plaintiffs' counsel a monthly report, by the last day of each month, of the status of any known class member currently housed at Menard, including the timing and result of any pending, upcoming, or concluded transfer decisions. Defendants also shall produce to Plaintiffs' counsel each month, by the last day of the month, all documentation related to class members at Menard including transfer requests, 2 The seven "working days" deadline is IDOC's policy as provided in A.D.

No. 04.03.104, "Evaluation, Treatment, and Correctional Management of Transgender Offenders." All other deadlines in this Order refer to calendar days. grievances, PREA complaints and investigations, TAC notes, and medical and mental health records including documentation of hormone levels for those on such therapy. IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED: December 11, 2025 Tl g (2 NANCY J. ROSENSTENGEL Chief U.S. District Judge Page 3 of 3