

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
NEW YORK

Jay Bradshaw v. Matthew Welch, Gabriel Orbegazo, Nathan Locke,
C.O. Russell, CPT. Gravlin, Donald Uhler, Eric Marshall, C.O.
Kilcoyne, C.O. Mitchell, C.O. McCargar, CPT. Vesneske, C.O.
Gordon, C.O. Dumas, C.O. Olsen, and Reginald Bishop

Bradshaw v. Welch · No. 9:21-CV-826 · Decided January 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The court denied plaintiff Jay Bradshaw’s second motion to compel discovery in his civil rights action arising from a July 12, 2021 use-of-force incident at Upstate Correctional Facility. The motion was untimely under the applicable discovery deadlines and local rules, and the court alternatively found that defendants had adequately responded and that the requested materials were irrelevant, overbroad, disproportionate, or presented security concerns.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of New York
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Paul J. Evangelista
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of New York
DECIDED	January 6, 2026
DOCKET	9:21-CV-826
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved to compel defendants to produce documents responsive to his eighth request for production in an ongoing prisoner civil-rights action. The magistrate judge denied the motion as untimely and, alternatively, on the merits.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Discovery rulings and motions to compel are reviewed under the district court’s broad discretion and sound discretion in managing the discovery process.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Jay Bradshaw v. Matthew Welch, Gabriel Orbegazo, Nathan Locke, C.O. Russell, CPT. Gravlin, Donald Uhler, Eric Marshall, C.O.

Kilcoyne, C.O. Mitchell, C.O. McCargar, CPT. Vesneske, C.O.
Gordon, C.O. Dumas, C.O. Olsen, Reginald Bishop

TOPICS

discovery dispute prisoners rights civil rights police misconduct civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure prisoner civil rights discovery

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether plaintiff's second motion to compel was timely under the court's scheduling order and Local Rules 16.2 and 37.1(h).
2. Whether defendants adequately responded to plaintiff's requests for security videos, planning grids, and unit activity logs under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26.
3. Whether the requested discovery was relevant and proportional to the needs of the case.

HOLDINGS

1. The motion to compel was untimely because it was filed more than fourteen days after the March 11, 2025 discovery deadline, and plaintiff offered no justification for the late filing.
2. Even if timely, the motion to compel would be denied because defendants adequately responded and the requested discovery was either subject to legitimate security concerns, already produced, or irrelevant, overbroad, burdensome, and disproportionate to the needs of the case.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Parties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party's claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case." (Legal standards)

"A plaintiff's pro se status does not excuse failure to abide by the District Court's procedural rules."
(Discussion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The underlying action arises from a July 12, 2021 use-of-force incident at Upstate Correctional Facility. Plaintiff sought security videos, planning grids for April through July 2021, and unit activity logs for the same period. Defendants asserted security risks, lack of relevance, overbreadth, burden, and disproportionality, and stated that plaintiff had already reviewed the relevant videos and received the relevant July 12, 2021 records.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action concerns an alleged use-of-force incident at Upstate Correctional Facility on July 12, 2021. After a discovery conference, the court extended the discovery deadline to March 11, 2025. Plaintiff filed his second

motion to compel on April 14, 2025, seeking security videos, planning grids, and unit activity logs. Defendants opposed the motion, and the court denied it.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- EM Ltd. v. Republic of Argentina, 695 F.3d 201, 207 (2d Cir. 2012)
- In re Agent Orange Prod. Liab. Litig., 517 F.3d 76, 103 (2d Cir. 2008)
- Harris v. Bronx Parent Hous. Network, Inc., No. 18-CV-11681, 2020 WL 763740, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 14, 2020)
- United States v. Sanders, 211 F.3d 711, 720 (2d Cir. 2000)
- Cisse v. Mitchell, 22-CV-6071FPG, 2024 WL 2794251, at *2 (W.D.N.Y. May 31, 2024)
- Henry v. Liberty, 9:15-CV-1108, 2017 WL 633409, at *5 (N.D.N.Y. Feb. 16, 2017)
- Cusamano v. Sobek, 604 F. Supp. 2d 416, 426-27 (N.D.N.Y. 2009)
- McNeil v. U.S., 508 U.S. 106, 113 (1993)
- Brunson v. Jonathan, 677 F. Supp. 2d 640, 642 (W.D.N.Y. 2010)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK JAY BRADSHAW, Plaintiff, V. No. 9:21-CV-826 MATTHEW WELCH, GABRIEL ORBEGOZO, (ECC/PJE) NATHAN LOCKE, C.O. RUSSELL, CPT. GRAVLIN, DONALD UHLER, ERIC MARSHALL, C.O. KILCOYNE, C.O. MITCHELL, C.O. MCCARGAR, CPT. VESNESKE, C.O. GORDON, C.O. DUMAS, C.O. OLSEN, and REGINALD BISHOP, Defendants. APPEARANCES: OF COUNSEL: Jay Bradshaw 08-A-2654 Sing Sing Correctional Facility 354 Hunter Street Ossining, New York 10562 Plaintiff pro se New York State Attorney General LELA M. GRAY, ESQ.

The Capitol Assistant Attorney General Albany, New York 12224 Attorney for defendants PAUL J. EVANGELISTA U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE MEMORANDUM-DECISION AND ORDER Presently before the Court is plaintiff's second motion to compel the production of documents in response to his eighth request for production. See Dkt. No. 202. Defendants opposed the motion. See Dkt.

No. 204. Plaintiff's motion is untimely and otherwise fails to establish any deficiencies in the defendant's response to his eighth request for production; therefore, plaintiff's motion is denied. |. Background Familiarity with the facts and issues underlying this action is presumed; thus, the Court will repeat the relevant facts herein only as necessary to review the instant motion.

This action involves a use-of-force incident that occurred on July 12, 2021, at Upstate Correctional Facility. See Dkt. No. 119 (“Second Amended Complaint”). A discovery conference was held on December 20, 2024, and the Court set a discovery deadline of February 10, 2025. See Dkt. No. 193.

On January 2, 2025, defense counsel received plaintiff's eighth request for document production, dated December 22, 2024. See Dkt. No. 204 at 96. Defendants’ responses and objections to plaintiff's eighth request for document production were served on January 28, 2025. See *id.* atq 7. No further communication was had between plaintiff and defendants regarding plaintiff's eighth request for production of documents.

See *id.* at J 12. Defendants requested and were granted a thirty-day extension of discovery deadlines to give plaintiff more time to respond to defendants’ discovery demands. See Dkt. Nos. 197, 198. Discovery deadlines in this matter were extended to March 11, 2025. See Dkt. No. 198. Plaintiff filed this second motion to compel on April 14, 2025. See Dkt.

No. 202. In his eighth request for production, plaintiff seeks copies of all videos related to the superintendent's hearing. See Dkt. No. 202 at 3. Additionally, plaintiff requests copies of the planning grid for the months of April through July 2021 for defendants Locke, Gordon, Marshall, and Orbegozo. See *id.* Plaintiff also seeks the production of Unit Activity Logs for Upstate Building 10' for the same months in 2021.

See *id.* Defendants object to providing copies of the security videos, citing concerns about unreasonable security risks that may arise from their disclosure. See Dkt. No. 202 at 7. Defendants further claim that all videos from the incidents on July 12, 2021, were shared with plaintiff during a controlled review of the OSI file on September 11, 2023. *Id.* Defendants next contend that there exists legitimate objection to plaintiff's demands for copies of the planning grid relevant to the periods in question.

They assert that the allegations plaintiff makes specifically relate to four use-of-force incidents that took place on July 12, 2021, the corresponding planning grids for which they already provided to plaintiff. See Dkt. No. 202 at 8. Defendants maintain that producing security planning grids beyond that date would not yield relevant information, and such request unduly burdensome, overbroad, irrelevant, and disproportionate to plaintiff's needs.

Defendants allege their response to plaintiff's request for building 11 Unit activity logs was adequate. They contend plaintiff was not housed in building 11 on the day of the alleged incidents, and, further, that there is no evidence demonstrating defendants’ control over their assignments within the DOCCS facility at that time. See Dkt. No. 204- 3 at 9. Consequently, defendants conclude plaintiff's request is unduly burdensome, overbroad, not relevant, not proportionate to the needs of the case, and creates an unreasonable security risk.

See *id.* Defendants contend that they have already produced to plaintiff the unit activity logs for July 12, 2021, for building 10, where they claim plaintiff was housed. To the extent his request seeks logs for dates other than the his eighth demand for production plaintiff seeks the “update, 11 Building logs.” Defendants respond the plaintiff was not in building 11, rather building 10.

In his motion to compel, plaintiff claims a demand for building 10 logs. The Court will consider the demand and the response to the demand as it relates to logs of building 10. See Dkt. No. 202 at 3, 8; Dkt. No. 204-1. day of the incidents, defendants assert that they are not relevant, unduly burdensome, overbroad, and not proportionate to the needs of the case.

See *id.* II. Legal standards Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure (“Fed. R. Civ. P.”) 26, “[p]arties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party’s claim or “[defense and proportional to the needs of the case[.]” FED. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). Rule 26 directs the Court to consider “the importance of the issues at stake in the action, the amount in controversy, the parties’ relative access to relevant information, the parties’ resources, the importance of the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit.” *Id.* “A district court has broad latitude to determine the scope of discovery and to manage the [discovery] process.” *EM Ltd. v. Republic of Argentina*, 695 F.3d 201, 207 (2d Cir.

2012) (citing *In re Agent Orange Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 517 F.3d 76, 103 (2d Cir. 2008)). “Motions to compel made pursuant to Rule 37 are ‘entrusted to the sound discretion of the district court.’” *Harris v. Bronx Parent Hous. Network, Inc.*, No. 18-CV- 11681, 2020 WL 763740, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 14, 2020)? (quoting *United States v. Sanders*, 211 F.3d 711, 720 (2d Cir.

2000)). Where a party fails to participate or Otherwise cooperate in discovery, the opposing party can seek an order compelling certain discovery. See FED. R. Civ. P. 37. This Court’s Local Rules require that any motion to compel discovery be filed no later than fourteen (14) days after the deadline for completing discovery or as otherwise extended by the Court.

See Dkt. No. 105 at 6 n.6; N.D.N.Y. L.R. 16.2, 37.1(h). 2 The Court has provided plaintiff with copies of unpublished cases cited herein. A plaintiff’s pro se status does not excuse failure to abide by the District Court’s procedural rules. “As has often been recognized by both the Supreme Court and Second Circuit, even pro se litigants must obey a district court’s procedural rules.” *Cusamano v. Sobek*, 604 F. Supp. 2d 416, 426-27 (N.D.N.Y.

2009) (citing *McNeil v. U.S.*, 508 U.S. 106, 113 (1993) (“While we have insisted that the pleadings prepared by prisoners who do not have access to counsel be liberally construed... we have never suggested that procedural rules in ordinary civil litigation should be interpreted so as to excuse mistakes by those who proceed without counsel.”); see also *Brunson v. Jonathan*, 677 F. Supp. 2d 640, 642 (W.D.N.Y.

2010) (denying as untimely a pro se plaintiff's motion to compel filed two and a half months late.).

Ill. Discussion Plaintiff's second motion to compel is plainly untimely. Discovery deadlines were extended until March 11, 2025, to give the plaintiff more time to respond to defendants' discovery demands. See Dkt. No. 198. As noted, the Court's Mandatory Pretrial Discovery and Scheduling Order, Dkt.

No. 105, at 6 n.6, and Local Rules 16.2 and 37.1(h), require plaintiff to file any motion to compel discovery within fourteen days following the discovery deadline, which was on or before March 25, 2025. Plaintiff's Second motion to compel was filed on April 14, 2025. See Dkt. No. 202. Plaintiff proffers no justification or cause for his late filing.

In addition to the unexcused procedural violations noted above, the Court finds that defendants have appropriately responded to plaintiff's demands. Even assuming, arguendo, that plaintiff's motion was timely filed, the Court would still deny plaintiff's motion on the merits. Specifically, the Court agrees with defendants that providing copies of the security videos plaintiff requests poses unreasonable security risks.

See *Cisse v. Mitchell*, 22-CV-6071FPG, 2024 WL 2794251, at *2 (W.D.N.Y. May 31, 2024) (citing *Henry v. Liberty*, 9:15-CV-1108, 2017 WL 633409, at *5 (N.D.N.Y. Feb. 16, 2017) ("mindful of the legitimate concerns of DOCCS and the facility,... the [c]ourt agrees that providing [plaintiff with an opportunity to review the [r]eport, but not possess it, is the appropriate course which adequately protects all the parties' interests"))).

Further, the Court observes that plaintiff has been given an opportunity to review all the relevant videos during a controlled review of the OSI file that occurred on September 11, 2023. See Dkt. No. 202 at 7; Dkt. No. 179-2 at J 21 (Skiff Decl.) Defendants have confirmed that DOCCS indicated it had no other or further videos depicting any of the incidents involving the plaintiff on July 12, 2021.

See Dkt. No. 144. Finally, Court agrees with defendants that their response and objections to plaintiff's demand for copies of the planning grid for the entire months of April 2021 to July 2021 for Locke, Gordon, Marshall, and Orbegozo, and their response to plaintiff's demand for Upstate Building 11 Unit Activity logs for the same period of time are not relevant, other than as to the planning grids or building logs for July 12, 2021, which have already been produced.

See Dkt. No. 202 at 8; Dkt. No. 204-3 at 9. As defendants m| highlight, there is no evidence that any defendant had any involvement in determining their post assignments for July 12, 2021, or any other day. Therefore, plaintiff's requested productions will not lead to relevant information and are overbroad and not proportionate to the plaintiff's needs to prosecute his case.

That portion of plaintiff's demands that the Court finds are even marginally relevant and proportionate to the plaintiff's claims, namely, the planning grid and the building logs for July 11,

2021, have already been produced. IV. Conclusion WHEREFORE, For the reasons set forth herein, plaintiff's Second Motion to Compel, Dkt. No. 202, is DENIED. IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 5, 2026 Albany, New York Paul J. Evangelista U.S. Magistrate Judge tt

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