

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
GEORGIA, SAVANNAH DIVISION

Butler v. Glenn, et al.

Butler v. Glenn, Civil Action No. 4:23-cv-63 (S.D. Ga. Mar. 13, 2026) · No. 4:23-cv-63 · Decided March 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia granted Defendant Mieres’s motion to dismiss based on the third-party release and injunction in Wellpath’s Chapter 11 bankruptcy plan. The court also overruled Plaintiff Butler’s objections and adopted the Magistrate Judge’s Report and Recommendation granting summary judgment to Pineiro, Kaigler, and Glenn, including qualified immunity for Pineiro and Kaigler. The action concerned alleged deliberate indifference to Butler’s medical needs while incarcerated.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, Savannah Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	R. Stan Baker
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, Savannah Division
DECIDED	March 13, 2026
DOCKET	4:23-cv-63
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Prisoner civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The district court reviewed de novo the plaintiff's objections to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation, considered renewed motions for summary judgment, and ruled on a defendant's motion to dismiss based on a bankruptcy-plan third-party release.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review of the portions of the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation to which objections were made; summary judgment is proper when there is no genuine dispute of material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The deliberate-indifference and qualified-immunity standards were applied as stated in the adopted Report and Recommendation.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Darryl Pernell Butler v. Phillip Glenn, Dawn Mieres, Aaron Pineiro, Briana Kaigler

TOPICS

section 1983 prisoners rights qualified immunity summary judgment bankruptcy

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights prisoner civil rights bankruptcy civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Wellpath's Chapter 11 plan released and enjoined Butler's claims against Mieres because Butler was a releasing party, Mieres was a released party, and Butler did not timely opt out.
2. Whether Pineiro and Kaigler acted with deliberate indifference to Butler's serious medical needs by relying on medical personnel to address his medication complaints.
3. Whether Glenn acted with deliberate indifference when he directed Butler to leave the medical unit despite Butler's statement that he believed his blood pressure was elevated.
4. Whether Pineiro and Kaigler were entitled to qualified immunity.

HOLDINGS

1. The third-party release applied to Butler's claim against Mieres, and Butler's failure to timely opt out permanently enjoined him from pursuing that claim in this court.
2. The district court could not adjudicate Butler's objections to the bankruptcy release; those matters had to be presented to the bankruptcy court.
3. Pineiro and Kaigler were entitled to summary judgment because the record did not permit a reasonable jury to find that either defendant acted with deliberate indifference.
4. Glenn was entitled to summary judgment because the record did not show that he was subjectively aware of an objectively serious acute medical need when he directed Butler to leave the medical unit.
5. Pineiro and Kaigler were entitled to qualified immunity because they acted within their discretionary authority and did not violate Butler's constitutional rights.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Because Mieres has shown that Butler’s claim against her falls within the ambit of Wellpath’s Third-Party Release and Butler failed to timely opt-out of Wellpath’s Third-Party Release within the period to do so, Butler’s claim against Mieres in this Court is enjoined and Mieres’ Motion to Dismiss, (doc. 95), is GRANTED.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Butler, a Georgia prisoner, alleged that he was not consistently provided prescribed blood-pressure medication while housed at Coastal State Prison from May 19, 2022, through March 8, 2023. He claimed that wardens Pineiro and Kaigler were deliberately indifferent because they referred his complaints to medical personnel, and that Glenn was deliberately indifferent when he directed Butler to leave the medical unit before treatment on November 10, 2022. Butler also asserted a deliberate-indifference claim against Mieres, a Wellpath employee, concerning his medical care.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Butler filed this pro se, in forma pauperis action on March 8, 2023, alleging constitutional violations concerning medical care at Coastal State Prison. The court stayed the case after Wellpath, LLC, an employer and indemnifier of defendant Mieres, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and later lifted the stay after Wellpath's discharge. Mieres moved to dismiss based on Wellpath's third-party release, while Pineiro, Kaigler, and Glenn sought summary judgment. The court granted Mieres's motion to dismiss, overruled Butler's objections, adopted the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation, granted summary judgment to Pineiro, Kaigler, and Glenn, and granted qualified immunity to Pineiro and Kaigler.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Wade v. McDade, 106 F.4th 1251, 1255 (11th Cir. 2024)
- Young v. City of Palm Bay, 358 F.3d 859, 863-864 (11th Cir. 2004)
- Boyd v. Adams, 2026 WL 165482, at *7 (S.D. Ga. Jan. 21, 2026)
- Washington v. Al Cannon Det. Ctr., 2025 WL 3484900, at *2-3 (D.S.C. Dec. 3, 2025)
- Sutton v. Kelly, 2025 WL 2463824, at *1-2 (D. Mont. Aug. 27, 2025)
- Parker v. Gugino, 2025 WL 3264103, at *2 (S.D. Ind. Nov. 21, 2025)
- Harrington v. Purdue Pharma L.P., 603 U.S. 204 (2024)
- Jones v. Hawes, 2025 WL 4072112, at *1 (S.D. Ga. Dec. 22, 2025)
- Guggenheimer v. Wellpath, LLC, 2025 WL 3008148, at *4 (M.D. Pa. Oct. 27, 2025)
- Farrow v. West, 320 F.3d 1235, 1243 (11th Cir. 2003)
- Brown v. Johnson, 387 F.3d 1344, 1351 (11th Cir. 2004)
- Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 255 (1986)

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