

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
ILLINOIS, PEORIA DIVISION

Edward Maclin v. Tate, et al.

Maclin · No. 1:25-cv-01423-MMM · Decided January 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The court conducted a merit review under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A of Edward Maclin’s pro se § 1983 complaint alleging deliberate indifference to serious medical needs. The court found plausible Eighth Amendment claims against Dr. Tate, Lisa Bishop, and Wexford Health Sources, Inc., denied the motion for appointed counsel with leave to renew, and ordered the case to proceed to service.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Peoria Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Michael M. Mihm
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Peoria Division
DECIDED	January 20, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cv-01423-MMM
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Merit review of a pro se incarcerated plaintiff’s complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, together with consideration of his request for appointment of counsel.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	At § 1915A screening, the court accepted factual allegations as true and liberally construed them in the plaintiff’s favor, while requiring nonconclusory facts sufficient to state a claim that is plausible on its face. For appointment of counsel, the court applied the Seventh Circuit’s two-part Pruitt inquiry.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; persuasive value only.
PARTIES	Edward Maclin v. Tate, Lisa Bishop, Wexford Health Sources, Inc.

TOPICS

- section 1983
- prisoners rights
- civil rights
- health law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights

prisoner litigation

constitutional law

health law

civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint plausibly stated an Eighth Amendment deliberate-indifference claim against Dr. Tate and Healthcare Unit Administrator Lisa Bishop.
2. Whether the complaint plausibly alleged that Wexford Health Sources, Inc.'s policies were the moving force behind constitutional violations.
3. Whether Maclin demonstrated the prerequisites for the court to request volunteer counsel in a civil-rights action.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint plausibly stated an Eighth Amendment claim against Dr. Tate and Lisa Bishop because it alleged that they knowingly delayed or denied needed medical care, causing pain and permanent injury.
2. The complaint plausibly stated a claim against Wexford because it alleged that Wexford policies were the moving force behind certain constitutional violations.
3. The motion to request counsel was denied without prejudice because Maclin had not shown a reasonable attempt to obtain counsel independently and had not shown that he was effectively prevented from doing so.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Plaintiff states a plausible Eighth Amendment claim for deliberate indifference to a serious medical need against Doctor Tate, Healthcare Unit Administrator Lisa Bishop, and Medical Contractor Wexford Health Sources, Inc.” (I. MERIT REVIEW)

“Plaintiff’s Motion to Request Counsel [4] is DENIED with leave to renew as stated above.” (Order ¶ 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Maclin suffered a gunshot wound in summer 2023 and received extensive hospital and correctional medical care, including physical therapy and monitoring for possible surgery. After his transfer to Illinois River Correctional Center in December 2023, staff allegedly knew of his serious medical needs, but he was not seen by a physician until late March 2024 and was not referred for physical therapy and neurology until after he filed grievances in November 2024. He eventually saw a physical therapist in May 2025 and a neurologist in August 2025; the neurologist allegedly stated that surgery was no longer an option because of the delay.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Maclin filed a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint alleging deliberate indifference to serious medical needs after delays in physical therapy, neurological care, and possible surgery following a gunshot wound. The court conducted its preliminary merit review, found a plausible Eighth Amendment claim against the individual defendants and

Wexford Health Sources, Inc., denied the motion to request counsel without prejudice, and directed service and further case-management procedures.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Turley v. Rednour, 729 F.3d 645, 649 (7th Cir. 2013)
- Alexander v. United States, 721 F.3d 418, 422 (7th Cir. 2013)
- Petties v. Carter, 836 F.3d 722, 729-30 (7th Cir. 2016) (en banc)
- Thomas v. Cook Cty. Sheriff's Dep't, 604 F.3d 293, 303 (7th Cir. 2010)
- Woodward v. Corr. Med. Servs. of Ill., Inc., 368 F.3d 917, 927-28 (7th Cir. 2004)
- Monell v. N.Y. City Dep't of Soc. Servs., 436 U.S. 658 (1978)
- Pruitt v. Mote, 503 F.3d 647, 653-55 (7th Cir. 2007)
- Jackson v. County of McLean, 953 F.2d 1070, 1071 (7th Cir. 1992)

OPINION

Maclin

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

PEORIA DIVISION

EDWARD MACLIN,)

) Plaintiff,)) v.) 1:25-cv-01423-MMM) TATE, et al.)) Defendants.)

ORDER

Plaintiff proceeding pro se under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, presently incarcerated at Illinois River Correctional Center, asserts claims for deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.

I. MERIT REVIEW

The case is before the Court for a merit review of Plaintiff's complaint. The Court must "screen" Plaintiff's complaint, and through such process identify and dismiss any legally insufficient claim. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A. A claim is legally insufficient if it "(1) is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or (2) seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief." *Id.* The Court accepts the factual allegations as true, liberally construing them in the plaintiff's favor. *Turley v. Rednour*, 729 F.3d 645, 649 (7th Cir. 2013). Conclusory statements and labels are insufficient—the facts alleged must "state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face." *Alexander v. United States*, 721 F.3d 418, 422 (7th Cir. 2013) (citation omitted). Plaintiff names as Defendants Dr. Tate, Healthcare Administrator Lisa Bishop, and Wexford Health Sources, Inc. Plaintiff alleges he suffered a gun shot wound in summer 2023.

He was treated extensively in the hospital and required significant ongoing treatment including physical therapy and intensive monitoring of the improvement of nerve function to determine if surgical intervention was needed to restore function. He was arrested in Peoria later in the summer and taken to Stateville Correctional Center in Fall 2023. He received significant medical care at Stateville including physical therapy and the scheduling of appointments for necessary ongoing care related to his gunshot wounds. He was then transferred to Illinois River Correctional Center in December 2023. Staff were aware of his serious medical needs for physical therapy. The need was documented in his medical records. He was wearing medical devices. He was in significant pain. And he requested medical care. He was not seen by a physician until late March 2024. He was prescribed some medication, allowed a waist chain permit, and told to follow up in two to three months. He was not seen again for many months and filed grievances beginning in November 2024 complaining that he had still not see a neurologist or physical therapist. Only then was he referred for physical therapy and neurology. But ee was not seen by a physical therapist until May 2025 by which point his prognosis was poor due to the extended time without treatment. In August 2025¹ Plaintiff writes “8/1/24” but in the context of the rest of his allegations this appears to be a typo. Plaintiff saw a neurologist who told Plaintiff that surgery was no longer an option due to the time that had passed. Plaintiff states a plausible Eighth Amendment claim for deliberate indifference to a serious medical need against Doctor Tate, Healthcare Unit Administrator Lisa Bishop, and Medical Contractor Wexford Health Sources, Inc. Plaintiff has plausibly alleged that the individual Defendants knowingly delayed or denied Plaintiff needed medical care causing pain and permanent injury, and it is plausible that Wexford’s policies were the moving force behind certain constitutional violations. See *Petties v. Carter*, 836 F.3d 722, 729-30 (7th Cir. 2016) (en banc); *Thomas v. Cook Cty Sheriff’s Dept.*, 604 F.3d 293, 303 (7th Cir. 2010); see also *Woodward v. Corr. Med. Servs. of Ill., Inc.*, 368 F.3d 917, 927-28 (7th Cir. 2004) (the standard for municipal liability in *Monell v. N.Y. City Dep’t of Soc. Servs.*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978), applies to corporations as well)).

II. REQUEST FOR COUNSEL

Plaintiff has asked for court assistance in finding an attorney. This Court does not have the authority to require an attorney to accept pro bono appointments on civil cases such as this. *Pruitt v. Mote*, 503 F.3d 647, 653 (7th Cir. 2007). The most that the Court may do is to ask for volunteer counsel. *Jackson v. County of McLean*, 953 F.2d 1070, 1071 (7th Cir. 1992) (“... civil litigants have no constitutional or statutory right to be represented by counsel in federal court.”). The Court must determine: (1) has the indigent plaintiff made a reasonable attempt to obtain counsel or been effectively precluded from doing so; and if so, (2) given the difficulty of the case, if the plaintiff appears competent to litigate it himself. *Pruitt*, 503 F.3d at 654–55. Plaintiff has not made a reasonable attempt to find counsel on his own and has not indicated that he is being prevented from doing so. First, there is no indication that Plaintiff does not have access to writing materials and to the mail. He has been in communication with the Court without apparent issue in this basic

regard. Second, parties typically show they have made a reasonable attempt to find counsel by writing to several law firms that practice civil rights law on behalf of prisoners, explaining the specifics of this lawsuit, and asking for representation. Copies of those letters sent along with copies of the responses received may then be filed with any renewed motion to request counsel. Any renewed motion should also explain any specifics as to Plaintiff's ability to litigate this case, including his education, legal experience, and any other issues that bear on his ability to represent himself. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Plaintiff's Motion to Request Counsel [4] is DENIED with leave to renew as stated above.

2. Pursuant to its merit review of the Complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the Court finds that the plaintiff states a plausible Eighth Amendment claim for deliberate indifference to a serious medical need against Doctor Tate, Healthcare Unit Administrator Lisa Bishop, and Medical Contractor Wexford Health Sources, Inc. Any additional claims shall not be included in the case, except at the Court's discretion on motion by a party for good cause shown or pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15.

3. This case is now in the process of service. The plaintiff is advised to wait until counsel has appeared for the defendants before filing any motions, to give notice to the defendants and an opportunity to respond to those motions. Motions filed before defendants' counsel has filed an appearance will generally be denied as premature. The plaintiff need not submit any evidence to the court at this time, unless otherwise directed by the court.

4. The court will attempt service on the defendants by mailing each defendant a waiver of service. If a defendant fails to sign and return a waiver of service to the clerk within thirty days after the waiver is sent, the court will take appropriate steps to effect formal service through the U.S. Marshals service on that defendant and will require that defendant to pay the full costs of formal service pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(d)(2).

5. With respect to a defendant who no longer works at the address provided by the plaintiff, the entity for whom that defendant worked while at that address shall provide to the clerk said defendant's current work address, or, if not known, said defendant's forwarding address. This information shall be used only for effectuating service. Documentation of forwarding addresses shall be retained only by the clerk and shall not be maintained in the public docket nor disclosed by the clerk.

6. The defendants shall file an answer within 60 days of the date the waiver is sent by the clerk. A motion to dismiss is not an answer. The answer should include all defenses appropriate under the Federal Rules. The answer and later pleadings shall be to the issues stated in this order. Generally, an answer sets out the defendants' positions. The court does not rule on the merits of those positions unless a motion is filed by the defendants. Therefore, no response to the answer is necessary or will be considered. After the defendants have been served and have answered, the court will enter an order setting discovery and dispositive motion deadlines.

7. This district uses electronic filing, which means that, after defense counsel has filed an appearance, defense counsel will automatically receive electronic notice of any motion or other paper filed by the plaintiff with the clerk. The plaintiff does not need to mail to defense counsel copies of motions and other papers that the plaintiff has filed with the clerk. However, this does not apply to discovery requests and responses. Discovery requests and responses are NOT filed with the clerk. The plaintiff must mail discovery requests and responses directly to counsel for the appropriate defendant. Discovery requests or responses sent to the clerk will be returned unfiled unless they are attached to and the subject of a motion to compel. Discovery does not begin until the court has entered a scheduling order, which will explain the discovery process in more detail.

8. Counsel for the defendants is hereby granted leave to depose the plaintiff.

Counsel for the defendants shall arrange the time for the deposition.

9. The plaintiff shall immediately notify the court, in writing, of any change in mailing address and telephone number. The plaintiff's failure to notify the court of a change in mailing address or phone number will result in dismissal of this lawsuit.

10. The clerk is directed to enter the standard qualified protective order pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Entered this 20th day of January, 2026. s/Michael M. Mihm

MICHAEL M. MIHM

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE