

Central District of Illinois

Civil prisoner cases needing Pro Bono Counsel – September 2023

Any attorney interested in helping as Pro Bono counsel may contact the Pro Bono Coordinator for the Central District of Illinois, Marleen Cooke at 217-492-5204 or Marleen_Cooke@ilcd.uscourts.gov.

The Central District of Illinois Plan for Recruitment of Counsel has a cap of \$1,000.00 for reimbursement of expenses.

19-3262 Anderson v Wexford, et al. - Plaintiff is housed at Western Illinois Correctional Center. Plaintiff's complaint states three claims: (1) a claim for deliberate indifference to a serious medical need against Defendants Matticks and Smith; (2) a Monell claim against Defendant Wexford Health Sources, Inc.; and (3) a deliberate indifference claim against the two John Doe correctional officers who kept the plaintiff in leg shackles after surgery.

20-3347 Mason v French, et al. - Plaintiff Mason states possible federal constitutional claims for (1) allegedly causing Plaintiff to be placed or kept in segregation too long and without the basic necessities and the accommodations he needs for his alleged disabilities; and, (2) after Plaintiff's release from segregation, allegedly causing Plaintiff to be placed in a cell for seven days with no light or electricity and other necessities.

20-4158 Merritte v Wilson, et al. - Plaintiff Merritte is incarcerated at Menard Correctional Center. Plaintiff claims allergies to certain foods that are "serious and life-threatening" and that he received medications and "therapeutic diets" for his allergies before his incarceration in the Illinois Department of Corrections ("IDOC"). Plaintiff Merritte alleges deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs and proceeds on an Eighth Amendment claim.

21-1143 Carter v Wexford - Plaintiff Jonathan T Carter is incarcerated at Pontiac Correctional Center. He has two claims: a claim for deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs and a retaliation claim in violation of his First Amendment rights. Plaintiff alleges that defendants were aware that he suffered from H pylori and further alleges prescribed for his H pylori caused him to develop pancreatic cancer and further interfered and deprived him of medical testing. Plaintiff also alleges that defendants retaliated against him by depriving him of his right to seek and obtain medical care.

22-1009 Cole v Staley, et al. -Plaintiff Brandon Cole is incarcerated at Pontiac Correctional Center. Plaintiff's Complaint states two claims: (1) an excessive force claim and (2) a failure to intervene or failure to protect claim in violation of his Eighth Amendment rights. Plaintiff alleges defendants exerted unconstitutional, excessive force against him and that defendants' physical assault against him caused him to suffer physical and psychological injuries. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendant Warden Leoneta Jackson was aware of the threat of an attack against him by Pontiac Correctional Officers, but she did nothing to stop the attack from occurring.

22-2283 Cox v Stephens - Plaintiff Fred Cox is incarcerated at Danville Correctional Center. Plaintiff's complaint alleges a violation of his Eighth Amendment right to be free from deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. Plaintiff alleges that he complained of stroke symptoms to defendant who misdiagnosed his symptoms, ignored his statements that he was having a stroke and refused to consult a doctor.

23-1123 – Anthony v Wexford - Plaintiff Keith Anthony is incarcerated at Pontiac Correctional Center. Plaintiff suffers from a serious mental illness and only has an eighth-grade education. Plaintiff's amended complaint states three claims: a deliberate indifference claim to his serious medical needs, a negligence claim under Illinois law, and a Monell claim against Wexford. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Sabrina diagnosed him as suffering from a urinary tract infection ("UTI") and, possibly, with a kidney stone. Plaintiff informed defendant Sabrina that he was in excruciating pain and that he needed immediate medical attention but was provided no medical care or relief for his pain, but simply told that he would need to see a doctor to receive treatment. Plaintiff asserts that he informed Defendant Warden Nurse of his pain, of his need for medical care, and of his lack of medical attention. However, Warden Nurse ignored Plaintiff's pleas for help and further alleges that Dr. Tilden also ignored his medical needs. Plaintiff claims that the lack of medical attention for his UTI and for his kidney problems led to him being taken to a local hospital on an emergent basis for treatment.

23-1219 Thomas v Hansen, et al. - Plaintiff Thomas is incarcerated at Pontiac Correctional Center. Plaintiff states an Eighth Amendment claim for deliberate indifference to a serious medical need against Defendants. Plaintiff has alleged that the individual Defendants denied Plaintiff needed medical care, or medicine. And Plaintiff alleges that Wexford's policies and practices caused delays to Plaintiff receiving necessary medical care including a specialist consult and receipt of prescribed medications.

23-3158 Day v Taylorville CC, et al. - Plaintiff Day is presently incarcerated at Vandalia Correctional Center but asserts claims based on occurrences at Taylorville Correctional Center. Plaintiff seeks to sue the Taylorville Correctional Center and St. John's Hospital. Plaintiff was denied his heart medication for about two weeks. As a result he experienced catastrophic high blood pressure resulting in a tear to his aorta. He underwent emergency heart surgery resulting in several complications including permanent nerve damage and a permanently paralyzed right hand, and other issues. Plaintiff was later transferred to Vandalia Correctional Center and has continued to experience issues with the conditions of his confinement there. Plaintiff names only Taylorville Correctional Center and St. John's Hospital as Defendants. Plaintiff's claims regarding the conditions of his confinement at Vandalia after his transfer to that jurisdiction must be pursued in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, where Vandalia is situated, rather than in this Court. Plaintiff is confined to the healthcare unit. One hand is permanently paralyzed. Plaintiff's claims include assertions of deliberate indifference to a serious medical need, which are more difficult compared to some other federal claims. The Court seeks pro bono counsel for plaintiff to assist him in drafting an amended complaint.