

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
CENTRAL DIVISION**

JASON MATTHEW LYNCH
Reg #07405-510

PLAINTIFF

v.

4:26-cv-00118-JM-JJV

WHITE COUNTY JAIL; *et al.*

DEFENDANTS

PARTIAL RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

The following Partial Recommended Disposition (“Recommendation”) has been sent to United States District Judge James M. Moody Jr. Any party may serve and file written objections to this Recommendation. Objections should be specific and include the factual or legal basis for the objection. If the objection is to a factual finding, specifically identify that finding and the evidence that supports your objection. Your objections must be received in the office of the United States District Court Clerk no later than fourteen (14) days from the date of this Recommendation. Failure to file timely objections may result in a waiver of the right to appeal questions of fact.

I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Jason Matthew Lynch, who is currently in federal prison in Oklahoma, has filed a *pro se* Second Amended Complaint seeking relief pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 regarding constitutional violations that allegedly occurred while he was a pretrial detainee and convicted prisoner in the White County Detention Center from June 9 to September 9, 2024. The Prison Litigation Reform Act requires federal courts to screen prisoner complaints seeking relief against a governmental entity, officer, or employee. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A. The court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if the prisoner has raised claims that: (a) are legally frivolous or malicious; (b) fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or (c) seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *Id.* When conducting this review, the court

construes *pro se* pleadings liberally. *Solomon v. Petray*, 795 F.3d 777, 787 (8th Cir. 2015). But “labels and conclusions,” “formulaic recitation[s] of the elements of a cause of action,” and “naked assertions devoid of further factual enhancement” are insufficient to plead a plausible claim. *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). Instead, the complaint must provide “sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Id.*

II. ALLEGATIONS

After careful consideration, I conclude for screening purposes only Plaintiff has pled a plausible claim under the Fourteenth and Eighth Amendments that White County, Captain Edwards, Lieutenant Ross, Sergeant Swindel and the unknown Doe Defendants, in their official capacities, subjected him to inhumane conditions of confinement including: (1) exposure to sewage, feces, blood, and black mold; (2) sleeping on concrete; (3) unsafe drinking water and inadequate nutrition; and (4) lack of adequate exercise and yard call. (Doc. 58.) And I will separately enter an Order directing service be attempted on that claim only. However, I find the remainder of the Second Amended Complaint fails to state plausible claims for the following reasons.

First, it is well settled jails are not proper parties in a § 1983 action. *Owens v. Scott Cnty. Jail*, 328 F.3d 1026, 1027 (8th Cir. 2003); *Williams v. Pulaski Cnty. Det. Facility*, Case No. 07-3851, 2008 WL 2079104 (8th Cir. May 19, 2008). Thus, Defendant White County Jail/White County Detention Center should be dismissed with prejudice.

Second, because there is no vicarious liability in § 1983 actions, a prisoner “must plead that each Government-official defendant, through the official’s own individual actions, has violated the Constitution. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 676; *see also Beard v. Falkenrath*, 97 F.4th 1109, 1122 (8th Cir. 2024). Plaintiff has not provided any facts explaining how Defendants Edwards,

Does, Ross, or Swindel were personally involved in the allegedly inhumane living conditions. Thus, I conclude he has failed to plead a plausible personal capacity claim against them.

Third, to plead a plausible inadequate medical care claim, it must be plausible that: (1) Plaintiff had an objectively serious need for medical care; and (2) prison officials subjectively knew of, but deliberately disregarded, that serious medical need. *Dantzler v. Baldwin*, 133 F.4th 833, 843 (8th Cir. 2025); *Jones v. Faulkner Cnty.*, 131 F.4th 869, 874 (8th Cir. 2025). Plaintiff's allegation that unspecified individuals failed to treat his ingrown toe nail does not satisfy either requirement. Thus, his inadequate medical care claim should be dismissed without prejudice.

Fourth, to plead a plausible failure to protect claim, it must be plausible that: (1) objectively, there was a substantial risk of serious harm; and (2) subjectively, the defendants knew of and disregarded that risk. *Johnson v. Schurman*, 145 F.4th 897, 903 (8th Cir. 2025); *Hodges v. Dep't of Corr.*, 61 F.4th 588, 592 (8th Cir. 2023). Plaintiff's assertion that unnamed individuals failed to fix a broken lock to his cell door does not satisfy either element. Thus, his failure to protect claim should be dismissed without prejudice.

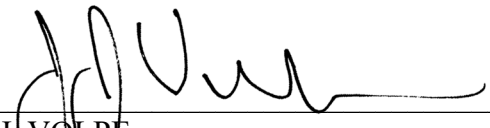
III. CONCLUSION

IT IS, THEREFORE, RECOMMENDED that:

1. Plaintiff be allowed to proceed with his inhumane conditions of confinement claim against Defendants White County, Edwards, Ross, Swindel, and Does in their official capacities only.
2. All other claims be DISMISSED without prejudice.
3. Defendant White County Jail/White County Detention Center be DISMISSED with prejudice.
4. The Court certify, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3), that an *in forma pauperis*

appeal from an Order adopting this Recommendation would not be taken in good faith.

DATED this 10th day of April 2026.



JOE J. VOLPE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE