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Sawyers v. Norton

United States Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit - June 23, 2020 - F.3d - 2020 WL 3424927

Pretrial detainee in county jail, whose delusional behavior deteriorated to the point that he removed his eyeball from its socket, filed action raising § 1983 deliberate indifference and state-law negligence claims against sheriff and on-duty law enforcement corrections officers, in their individual and official capacities.

The United States District Court for the District of Colorado granted in part and denied in part defendants' motion for summary judgment. Defendants appealed.

The Court of Appeals held that:

- The Court lacked jurisdiction over officers' challenges to district court's factual findings as to objective component of deliberate indifference claim;
- Pretrial detainee established that his medical condition was sufficiently serious, satisfying objective component of deliberate indifference claim;
- The Court lacked jurisdiction over officers' challenges to district court's factual findings as to subjective component of deliberate indifference claim; and
- County was not entitled to sovereign immunity from state-law negligence claims.

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