

FEB 09 2016

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ROANOKE DIVISION

A.C. DUDLEY, CLERK
BY: *H. McDonald*
DEPUTY CLERK

ROBERT MCKINLEY BLANKENSHIP,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
SOUTHWEST VA REGIONAL JAIL)
AUTHORITY, et al.,)
Defendants.)

Civil Action 7:16-cv-00021

MEMORANDUM OPINION

By: **Hon. Jackson L. Kiser**
Senior United States District Judge

Robert Mckinley Blankenship, a Virginia inmate proceeding pro se, filed a complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, naming the Southwest VA Regional Jail Authority and the Abingdon Regional Jail (“Jail”) as defendants. This matter is before me for screening, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

I dismiss claims alleged against the Jail without prejudice because the Jail is not amenable to suit via § 1983. See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988) (recognizing a § 1983 claim must allege the violation of a federal right by a person acting under color of state law); Preval v. Reno, 57 F. Supp. 2d 307, 310 (E.D. Va. 1999) (“[T]he Piedmont Regional Jail is not a ‘person,’ and therefore not amenable to suit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.”), aff’d in part and rev’d in part, 203 F.3d 821 (4th Cir. 2000), reported in full-text format at 2000 U.S. App. LEXIS 465, at *3, 2000 WL 20591, at *1 (“The court also properly determined that the Piedmont Regional Jail is not a ‘person’ and is therefore not amenable to suit under § 1983[.]”). Plaintiff’s claims against the Southwest VA Regional Jail Authority remains pending.

ENTER: This 9th day of February, 2016.

Jackson L. Kiser
Senior United States District Judge