

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
SOUTH BEND DIVISION

CARLOS A. SMITH,

Plaintiff,

v.

A. COBBS, et al.,

Defendants.

CAUSE NO. 3:19-CV-995-JD-MGG

OPINION AND ORDER

Carlos A. Smith is a convicted prisoner in the Elkhart County Jail. Without a lawyer he filed a complaint against three defendants based on separate and unrelated incidents. The first claim is against Officer A. Cobbs for smashing his foot with a door on September 14, 2019. The second claim is against Officer Hunter for making rude comments about his ID photo and pinching his left breast in April 2019. The third claim is against Officer Dietz related to his property while he was in segregation in October 2019. “[U]nrelated claims against different defendants belong in different suits” *George v. Smith*, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007). *See also Owens v. Evans*, 878 F.3d 559, 566 (7th Cir. 2017).

When a plaintiff files a complaint with unrelated claims, it is the practice of this court to allow him to decide which related claims to pursue in the instant case – as well as to decide when or if to bring the other claims in separate suits because “the plaintiff as master of the complaint may present (or abjure) any claim he likes.” *Katz v. Gerardi*, 552 F.3d 558, 563 (7th Cir. 2009). *See Wheeler v. Wexford Health Sources, Inc.*, 689 F.3d 680,

