

1 a governmental entity or an officer or an employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C.
2 § 1915A(a). The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if a plaintiff has raised
3 claims that are legally frivolous or malicious, that fail to state a claim upon which relief may
4 be granted, or that seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.
5 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), (2).

6 A pleading must contain a “short and plain statement of the claim *showing* that the
7 pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2) (emphasis added). While Rule 8 does not
8 demand detailed factual allegations, “it demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant-
9 unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009).
10 “Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory
11 statements, do not suffice.” Id.

12 “[A] complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a
13 claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” Id. (quoting Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly,
14 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). A claim is plausible “when the plaintiff pleads factual content
15 that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the
16 misconduct alleged.” Id. “Determining whether a complaint states a plausible claim for
17 relief [is] . . . a context-specific task that requires the reviewing court to draw on its judicial
18 experience and common sense.” Id. at 1950. Thus, although a plaintiff’s specific factual
19 allegations may be consistent with a constitutional claim, a court must assess whether there
20 are other “more likely explanations” for a defendant’s conduct. Id. at 1951. But as the
21 United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has instructed, courts must “continue
22 to construe *pro se* filings liberally.” Hebbe v. Pliler, No. 07-17265, 2010 WL 2947323, at
23 *3 (9th Cir. Jul. 29, 2010). A “complaint [filed by a *pro se* prisoner] ‘must be held to less
24 stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.’” Id. (quoting Erickson v.
25 Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007) (*per curiam*)).

26 If the Court determines that a pleading could be cured by the allegation of other facts,
27 a *pro se* litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint before dismissal of the
28 action. See Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127-29 (9th Cir. 2000) (*en banc*). The Court

1 should not, however, advise the litigant how to cure the defects. This type of advice “would
2 undermine district judges’ role as impartial decisionmakers.” Pliler v. Ford, 542 U.S. 225,
3 231 (2004); see also Lopez, 203 F.3d at 1131 n.13 (declining to decide whether the court was
4 required to inform a litigant of deficiencies). Plaintiff’s Complaint will be dismissed for
5 failure to state a claim with leave to amend because the Complaint may possibly be saved by
6 amendment.

7 **III. Complaint**

8 Plaintiff alleges one count for threat to safety. He sues only Maricopa County Sheriff
9 Joseph M. Arpaio. Plaintiff seeks compensatory and punitive damages.

10 Plaintiff alleges the following facts: On June 28, 2010, Plaintiff was confined to a
11 minimum security pod. On that day, an inmate referred to as “DC” attacked Plaintiff from
12 behind knocking Plaintiff unconscious and resulting in a cut requiring six stitches. A few
13 days later, Plaintiff learned that DC had stabbed another inmate in the eye with a pencil in
14 his previous pod, which was a medium security pod.

15 **IV. Failure to State a Claim**

16 To state a claim under § 1983, a plaintiff must allege facts supporting that (1) the
17 conduct about which they complain was committed by a person acting under the color of
18 state law and (2) the conduct deprived them of a federal constitutional or statutory right.
19 Wood v. Ostrander, 879 F.2d 583, 587 (9th Cir. 1989). In addition, a plaintiff must allege
20 that they suffered a specific injury as a result of the conduct of a particular defendant and
21 they must allege an affirmative link between the injury and the conduct of that defendant.
22 Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362, 371-72, 377 (1976).

23 **A. Sheriff Arpaio**

24 Plaintiff sues Maricopa County Sheriff Arpaio. Although Arpaio may properly be
25 sued for constitutional violations, Plaintiff fails to state a claim against him. “A plaintiff
26 must allege facts, not simply conclusions, that show that an individual was personally
27 involved in the deprivation of his civil rights.” Barren v. Harrington, 152 F.3d 1193, 1194
28 (9th Cir. 1998). For an individual to be liable in his official capacity, a plaintiff must allege

1 that the official acted as a result of a policy, practice, or custom. See Cortez v. County of Los
2 Angeles, 294 F.3d 1186, 1188 (9th Cir. 2001). Further, there is no *respondeat superior*
3 liability under § 1983, so a defendant’s position as the supervisor of someone who allegedly
4 violated a plaintiff’s constitutional rights does not make him liable. Monell v. Dep’t of Soc.
5 Servs., 436 U.S. 658, 691 (1978); Taylor v. List, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989). A
6 supervisor in his individual capacity, “is only liable for constitutional violations of his
7 subordinates if the supervisor participated in or directed the violations, or knew of the
8 violations and failed to act to prevent them.” Taylor, 880 F.2d at 1045.

9 Plaintiff fails to allege any facts against Arpaio. He fails to allege facts to support that
10 Arpaio enacted or enforced a policy, custom, or practice that resulted in the denial of
11 Plaintiff’s constitutional rights. Plaintiff also fails to allege facts to support that Arpaio
12 directly violated his constitutional rights or that he was aware that Plaintiff’s rights were
13 being violated but failed to act. Plaintiff therefore fails to state a claim against Arpaio in the
14 Complaint.

15 **B. Threat to Safety**

16 Plaintiff alleges a claim for threat to his safety. Jail officials are required to take
17 reasonable measures to guarantee the safety of inmates and officials have a duty to protect
18 prisoners from violence at the hands of other prisoners. Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825,
19 832-33 (1994). To state a claim for threats to safety, an inmate must allege facts to support
20 that he was incarcerated under conditions posing a substantial risk of harm and that prison
21 officials were “deliberately indifferent” to those risks. Id.; Redman v. County of Los
22 Angeles, 942 F.2d 1435, 1443 (9th Cir. 1991) (*en banc*). To adequately allege deliberate
23 indifference, a plaintiff must set forth facts to support that a defendant knew of, but
24 disregarded, an excessive risk to inmate safety. Farmer, 511 U.S. at 837. That is, “the
25 official must both [have been] aware of facts from which the inference could be drawn that
26 a substantial risk of serious harm exist[ed], and he must also [have] draw[n] the inference.”
27 Farmer, 511 U.S. at 837; Redman, 942 F.2d at 1442.

28 Plaintiff alleges that DC was classified as a medium security inmate and had

1 previously attacked another inmate. These allegations, absent more, are not sufficient to
2 support that any official knew or should have known that DC posed a danger to Plaintiff.
3 Plaintiff also fails to allege facts to support that housing DC in a minimum custody pod,
4 absent more, rose to the level of deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's safety. Plaintiff thus
5 fails to state a claim for threat to his safety in the Complaint.

6 **V. Leave to Amend**

7 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff's Complaint will be dismissed for failure to state
8 a claim upon which relief may be granted. Within 30 days, Plaintiff may submit a first
9 amended complaint to cure the deficiencies outlined above. The Clerk of Court will mail
10 Plaintiff a court-approved form to use for filing a first amended complaint. If Plaintiff fails
11 to use the court-approved form, the Court may strike the amended complaint and dismiss this
12 action without further notice to Plaintiff.

13 Plaintiff must clearly designate on the face of the document that it is the "First
14 Amended Complaint." The first amended complaint must be retyped or rewritten in its
15 entirety on the court-approved form and may not incorporate any part of the original
16 Complaint by reference. Plaintiff may include only one claim per count.

17 A first amended complaint supersedes the original complaint. Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963
18 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992); Hal Roach Studios v. Richard Feiner & Co., 896 F.2d 1542,
19 1546 (9th Cir. 1990). After amendment, the Court will treat an original complaint as
20 nonexistent. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262. Any cause of action that was raised in the original
21 complaint is waived if it is not raised in a first amended complaint. King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d
22 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

23 **VI. Warnings**

24 **A. Release**

25 Plaintiff must pay the unpaid balance of the filing fee within 120 days of his release.
26 Also, within 30 days of his release, he must either (1) notify the Court that he intends to pay
27 the balance or (2) show good cause, in writing, why he cannot. Failure to comply may result
28 in dismissal of this action.

1 **B. Address Changes**

2 Plaintiff must file and serve a notice of a change of address in accordance with Rule
3 83.3(d) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff must not include a motion for other
4 relief with a notice of change of address. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this
5 action.

6 **C. Copies**

7 Plaintiff must submit an additional copy of every filing for use by the Court. See
8 LRCiv 5.4. Failure to comply may result in the filing being stricken without further notice
9 to Plaintiff.

10 **D. Possible “Strike”**

11 Because the Complaint has been dismissed for failure to state a claim, if Plaintiff fails
12 to file an amended complaint correcting the deficiencies identified in this Order, the
13 dismissal may count as a “strike” under the “3-strikes” provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).
14 Under the 3-strikes provision, a prisoner may not bring a civil action or appeal a civil
15 judgment *in forma pauperis* under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 “if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior
16 occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a
17 court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious,
18 or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under
19 imminent danger of serious physical injury.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

20 **E. Possible Dismissal**

21 If Plaintiff fails to timely comply with every provision of this Order, including these
22 warnings, the Court may dismiss this action without further notice. See Ferdik, 963 F.2d at
23 1260-61 (a district court may dismiss an action for failure to comply with any order of the
24 Court).

25 **IT IS ORDERED:**

- 26 (1) Plaintiff’s Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* is **granted**. (Doc. 4.)
27 (2) As required by the accompanying Order to the appropriate government agency,
28 Plaintiff must pay the \$350.00 filing fee and is not assessed an initial partial filing fee.

**Instructions for a Prisoner Filing a Civil Rights Complaint
in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona**

1. Who May Use This Form. The civil rights complaint form is designed to help incarcerated persons prepare a complaint seeking relief for a violation of their federal civil rights. These complaints typically concern, but are not limited to, conditions of confinement. **This form should not be used to challenge your conviction or sentence.** If you want to challenge a state conviction or sentence, you should file a petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in state custody. If you want to challenge a federal conviction or sentence, you should file a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to vacate sentence in the federal court that entered the judgment.

2. The Form. **Local Rule of Civil Procedure (LRCiv) 3.4(a) provides that complaints by incarcerated persons must be filed on the court-approved form.** The form must be typed or neatly handwritten. The form must be completely filled in to the extent applicable. All questions must be answered clearly and concisely in the appropriate space on the form. If needed, you may attach additional pages, **but no more than fifteen additional pages**, of standard letter-sized paper. You must identify which part of the complaint is being continued and number all pages. If you do not fill out the form properly, you will be asked to submit additional or corrected information, which may delay the processing of your action. You do not need to cite law.

3. Your Signature. You must tell the truth and sign the form. If you make a false statement of a material fact, you may be prosecuted for perjury.

4. The Filing Fee. The filing fee for this action is \$350.00. If you are unable to immediately pay the filing fee, you may request leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Please review the “Information for Prisoners Seeking Leave to Proceed with a (Non-Habeas) Civil Action in Federal Court *In Forma Pauperis* Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915” for additional instructions.

5. Original and Judge’s Copy. You must send an **original plus one copy** of your complaint and of any other documents submitted to the Court. You must send one additional copy to the Court if you wish to have a file-stamped copy of the document returned to you. All copies must be identical to the original. Copies may be legibly handwritten.

6. Where to File. You should file your complaint in the division **where you were confined when your rights were allegedly violated.** See LRCiv 5.1(a) and 77.1(a). If you were confined in Maricopa, Pinal, Yuma, La Paz, or Gila County, file in the Phoenix Division. If you were confined in Apache, Navajo, Coconino, Mohave, or Yavapai County, file in the Prescott Division. If you were confined in Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Graham, or Greenlee County, file in the Tucson Division. **Mail the original and one copy of the complaint with the \$350 filing fee or the application to proceed *in forma pauperis* to:**

Phoenix & Prescott Divisions:
U.S. District Court Clerk
U.S. Courthouse, Suite 130
401 West Washington Street, SPC 10
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-2119

OR

Tucson Division:
U.S. District Court Clerk
U.S. Courthouse, Suite 1500
405 West Congress Street
Tucson, Arizona 85701-5010

7. Change of Address. You must immediately notify the Court and the defendants in writing of any change in your mailing address. **Failure to notify the Court of any change in your mailing address may result in the dismissal of your case.**

8. Certificate of Service. You must furnish the defendants with a copy of any document you submit to the Court (except the initial complaint and application to proceed *in forma pauperis*). Each original document (except the initial complaint and application to proceed *in forma pauperis*) must include a certificate of service on the last page of the document stating the date a copy of the document was mailed to the defendants and the address to which it was mailed. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(a), (d). Any document received by the Court that does not include a certificate of service may be stricken. A certificate of service should be in the following form:

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was mailed
this _____ (month, day, year) to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Attorney for Defendant(s)

(Signature)

9. Amended Complaint. If you need to change any of the information in the initial complaint, you must file an amended complaint. The amended complaint must be written on the court-approved civil rights complaint form. You may file one amended complaint without leave (permission) of Court before any defendant has answered your original complaint. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a). After any defendant has filed an answer, you must file a motion for leave to amend and lodge (submit) a proposed amended complaint. LRCiv 15.1. In addition, an amended complaint may not incorporate by reference any part of your prior complaint. LRCiv 15.1(a)(2). **Any allegations or defendants not included in the amended complaint are considered dismissed.** All amended complaints are subject to screening under the Prison Litigation Reform Act; screening your amendment will take additional processing time.

10. Exhibits. You should not submit exhibits with the complaint or amended complaint. Instead, the relevant information should be paraphrased. You should keep the exhibits to use to support or oppose a motion to dismiss, a motion for summary judgment, or at trial.

11. Letters and Motions. It is generally inappropriate to write a letter to any judge or the staff of any judge. The only appropriate way to communicate with the Court is by filing a written pleading or motion.

12. Completing the Civil Rights Complaint Form.

HEADING:

1. Your Name. Print your name, prison or inmate number, and institutional mailing address on the lines provided.
2. Defendants. If there are **four or fewer** defendants, print the name of each. If you name **more than four** defendants, print the name of the first defendant on the first line, write the words “and others” on the second line, and attach an additional page listing the names of **all** of the defendants. Insert the additional page after page 1 and number it “1-A” at the bottom.
3. Jury Demand. If you want a jury trial, you must write “JURY TRIAL DEMANDED” in the space below “CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT BY A PRISONER.” Failure to do so may result in the loss of the right to a jury trial. A jury trial is not available if you are seeking only injunctive relief.

Part A. JURISDICTION:

1. Nature of Suit. Mark whether you are filing the complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for state, county, or city defendants; “Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents” for federal defendants; or “other.” If you mark “other,” identify the source of that authority.
2. Location. Identify the institution and city where the alleged violation of your rights occurred.
3. Defendants. Print all of the requested information about each of the defendants in the spaces provided. If you are naming more than four defendants, you must provide the necessary information about each additional defendant on separate pages labeled “2-A,” “2-B,” etc., at the bottom. Insert the additional page(s) immediately behind page 2.

Part B. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS:

You must identify any other lawsuit you have filed in either state or federal court while you were a prisoner. Print all of the requested information about each lawsuit in the spaces provided. If you have filed more than three lawsuits, you must provide the necessary information about each additional lawsuit on a separate page. Label the page(s) as “2-A,” “2-B,” etc., at the bottom of the page and insert the additional page(s) immediately behind page 2.

Part C. CAUSE OF ACTION:

You must identify what rights each defendant violated. The form provides space to allege three separate counts (**one violation per count**). If you are alleging more than three counts, you must provide the necessary information about each additional count on a separate page. Number the additional pages “5-A,” “5-B,” etc., and insert them immediately behind page 5. Remember that you are limited to a total of fifteen additional pages.

1. Counts. You must identify which civil right was violated. **You may allege the violation of only one civil right per count.**

2. Issue Involved. Check the box that most closely identifies the issue involved in your claim. **You may check only one box per count.** If you check the box marked “Other,” you must identify the specific issue involved.

3. Supporting Facts. After you have identified which civil right was violated, you must state the supporting facts. Be as specific as possible. You must state what each individual defendant did to violate your rights. If there is more than one defendant, you must identify which defendant did what act. You also should state the date(s) on which the act(s) occurred, if possible.

4. Injury. State precisely how you were injured by the alleged violation of your rights.

5. Administrative Remedies. You must exhaust any available administrative remedies before you file a civil rights complaint. See 42 U.S.C. § 1997e. Consequently, you should disclose whether you have exhausted the inmate grievance procedures or administrative appeals for each count in your complaint. If the grievance procedures were not available for any of your counts, fully explain why on the lines provided.

Part D. REQUEST FOR RELIEF:

Print the relief you are seeking in the space provided.

SIGNATURE:

You must sign your name and print the date you signed the complaint. Failure to sign the complaint will delay the processing of your action. Unless you are an attorney, you may not bring an action on behalf of anyone but yourself.

FINAL NOTE

You should follow these instructions carefully. Failure to do so may result in your complaint being stricken or dismissed. All questions must be answered concisely in the proper space on the form. If you need more space, you may attach no more than fifteen additional pages. But the form must be completely filled in to the extent applicable. If you attach additional pages, be sure to identify which section of the complaint is being continued and number the pages.

Name and Prisoner/Booking Number

Place of Confinement

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip Code

(Failure to notify the Court of your change of address may result in dismissal of this action.)

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

(Full Name of Plaintiff) Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO. _____
(To be supplied by the Clerk)

(1) _____
(Full Name of Defendant)

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

Defendant(s).

Check if there are additional Defendants and attach page 1-A listing them.

**CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT
BY A PRISONER**

- Original Complaint
- First Amended Complaint
- Second Amended Complaint

A. JURISDICTION

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to:

- 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a); 42 U.S.C. § 1983
- 28 U.S.C. § 1331; Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents, 403 U.S. 388 (1971).
- Other: _____

2. Institution/city where violation occurred: _____

B. DEFENDANTS

1. Name of first Defendant: _____ . The first Defendant is employed as:
_____ at _____ .
(Position and Title) (Institution)
2. Name of second Defendant: _____ . The second Defendant is employed as:
_____ at _____ .
(Position and Title) (Institution)
3. Name of third Defendant: _____ . The third Defendant is employed as:
_____ at _____ .
(Position and Title) (Institution)
4. Name of fourth Defendant: _____ . The fourth Defendant is employed as:
_____ at _____ .
(Position and Title) (Institution)

If you name more than four Defendants, answer the questions listed above for each additional Defendant on a separate page.

C. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS

1. Have you filed any other lawsuits while you were a prisoner? Yes No
2. If yes, how many lawsuits have you filed? _____. Describe the previous lawsuits:
 - a. First prior lawsuit:
 1. Parties: _____ v. _____
 2. Court and case number: _____
 3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?) _____
 - b. Second prior lawsuit:
 1. Parties: _____ v. _____
 2. Court and case number: _____
 3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?) _____
 - c. Third prior lawsuit:
 1. Parties: _____ v. _____
 2. Court and case number: _____
 3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?) _____

If you filed more than three lawsuits, answer the questions listed above for each additional lawsuit on a separate page.

D. CAUSE OF ACTION

COUNT I

1. State the constitutional or other federal civil right that was violated: _____
_____.

2. **Count I.** Identify the issue involved. Check **only one**. State additional issues in separate counts.
 Basic necessities Mail Access to the court Medical care
 Disciplinary proceedings Property Exercise of religion Retaliation
 Excessive force by an officer Threat to safety Other: _____.

3. **Supporting Facts.** State as briefly as possible the FACTS supporting Count I. Describe exactly what **each Defendant** did or did not do that violated your rights. State the facts clearly in your own words without citing legal authority or arguments.

_____.

4. **Injury.** State how you were injured by the actions or inactions of the Defendant(s).

_____.

5. **Administrative Remedies:**
a. Are there any administrative remedies (grievance procedures or administrative appeals) available at your institution? Yes No
b. Did you submit a request for administrative relief on Count I? Yes No
c. Did you appeal your request for relief on Count I to the highest level? Yes No
d. If you did not submit or appeal a request for administrative relief at any level, briefly explain why you did not. _____
_____.

COUNT III

1. State the constitutional or other federal civil right that was violated: _____
_____.

2. **Count III.** Identify the issue involved. Check **only one**. State additional issues in separate counts.

<input type="checkbox"/> Basic necessities	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to the court	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical care
<input type="checkbox"/> Disciplinary proceedings	<input type="checkbox"/> Property	<input type="checkbox"/> Exercise of religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Retaliation
<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive force by an officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Threat to safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.	

3. **Supporting Facts.** State as briefly as possible the FACTS supporting Count III. Describe exactly what **each Defendant** did or did not do that violated your rights. State the facts clearly in your own words without citing legal authority or arguments.

_____.

4. **Injury.** State how you were injured by the actions or inactions of the Defendant(s).

_____.

5. **Administrative Remedies.**

a. Are there any administrative remedies (grievance procedures or administrative appeals) available at your institution? Yes No

b. Did you submit a request for administrative relief on Count III? Yes No

c. Did you appeal your request for relief on Count III to the highest level? Yes No

d. If you did not submit or appeal a request for administrative relief at any level, briefly explain why you did not. _____
_____.

If you assert more than three Counts, answer the questions listed above for each additional Count on a separate page.

E. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

State the relief you are seeking:

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on _____
DATE

SIGNATURE OF PLAINTIFF

(Name and title of paralegal, legal assistant, or other person who helped prepare this complaint)

(Signature of attorney, if any)

(Attorney's address & telephone number)

ADDITIONAL PAGES

All questions must be answered concisely in the proper space on the form. If you need more space, you may attach no more than fifteen additional pages. But the form must be completely filled in to the extent applicable. If you attach additional pages, be sure to identify which section of the complaint is being continued and number all pages.