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

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André Michael Godard,

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No. CV 11-604-PHX-JAT (DKD)

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Plaintiff,

)

**ORDER**

11

vs.

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Durango Jail, et al.,

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Defendants.

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Plaintiff André Michael Godard, who is confined in the Maricopa County Durango Jail, has filed a *pro se* civil rights Complaint (Doc. 1) and paid the filing fee. The Court will dismiss the Complaint with leave to amend.

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**I. Statutory Screening of Prisoner Complaints**

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

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A pleading must contain a “short and plain statement of the claim *showing* that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2) (emphasis added). While Rule 8 does not demand detailed factual allegations, “it demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009).

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1 “Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory  
2 statements, do not suffice.” Id.

3 “[A] complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a  
4 claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” Id. (quoting Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly,  
5 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). A claim is plausible “when the plaintiff pleads factual content  
6 that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the  
7 misconduct alleged.” Id. “Determining whether a complaint states a plausible claim for  
8 relief [is] . . . a context-specific task that requires the reviewing court to draw on its judicial  
9 experience and common sense.” Id. at 1950. Thus, although a plaintiff’s specific factual  
10 allegations may be consistent with a constitutional claim, a court must assess whether there  
11 are other “more likely explanations” for a defendant’s conduct. Id. at 1951.

12 But as the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has instructed, courts  
13 must “continue to construe *pro se* filings liberally.” Hebbe v. Pliler, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th  
14 Cir. 2010). A “complaint [filed by a *pro se* prisoner] ‘must be held to less stringent standards  
15 than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.’” Id. (quoting Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89,  
16 94 (2007) (*per curiam*)).

17 If the Court determines that a pleading could be cured by the allegation of other facts,  
18 a *pro se* litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint before dismissal of the  
19 action. See Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127-29 (9th Cir. 2000) (*en banc*). The Court  
20 should not, however, advise the litigant how to cure the defects. This type of advice “would  
21 undermine district judges’ role as impartial decisionmakers.” Pliler v. Ford, 542 U.S. 225,  
22 231 (2004); see also Lopez, 203 F.3d at 1131 n.13 (declining to decide whether the court was  
23 required to inform a litigant of deficiencies). Plaintiff’s Complaint will be dismissed for lack  
24 of subject matter jurisdiction, with leave to amend because the Complaint may possibly be  
25 saved by amendment.

## 26 **II. Lack of Jurisdiction**

27 Federal courts have limited jurisdiction, and limitations on the court’s jurisdiction  
28 must neither be disregarded nor evaded. Owen Equip. & Erection Co. v. Kroger, 437 U.S.

1 365, 374 (1978). The Court is obligated to determine *sua sponte* whether it has subject  
2 matter jurisdiction. See Valdez v. Allstate Ins. Co., 372 F.3d 1115, 1116 (9th Cir. 2004).  
3 See also Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3) (“If the court determines at any time that it lacks subject-  
4 matter jurisdiction, the court must dismiss the action.”).

5 Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires that “[a] pleading that states  
6 a claim for relief must contain: (1) a short and plain statement of the grounds for the court’s  
7 jurisdiction . . . .” In order to proceed in federal court, Plaintiff must demonstrate some right  
8 of action and legal entitlement to the damages he seeks. In this case, the most likely source  
9 of a right to sue is **42 U.S.C. § 1983**. The Court has jurisdiction over such cases pursuant to  
10 **28 U.S.C. § 1343(a)(3)**.

11 Plaintiff has not alleged that his Complaint arises pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 or that  
12 the Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a)(3). He has alleged jurisdiction  
13 pursuant to “Lower Buckeye Jail & Durango J.” These are buildings, not a jurisdictional  
14 basis for a lawsuit. See Watson v. Chessman, 362 F. Supp. 2d 1190, 1194 (S.D. Cal. 2005)  
15 (“The court will not . . . infer allegations supporting federal jurisdiction; federal subject  
16 matter [jurisdiction] must always be affirmatively alleged.”). Therefore, the Court will  
17 dismiss Plaintiff’s Complaint without prejudice.

18 The Court notes that if Plaintiff had alleged a valid jurisdictional basis for his lawsuit,  
19 his Complaint nevertheless would have been dismissed for failure to state a claim. Section  
20 1983 provides a cause of action against persons acting under color of state law who have  
21 violated rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and federal law. 42 U.S.C.  
22 § 1983; see also Buckley v. City of Redding, 66 F.3d 188, 190 (9th Cir. 1995). A “person”  
23 under § 1983 includes municipalities, other local government units, and other “bodies politic  
24 and corporate,” Monell v. New York City Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658, 688-  
25 90 (1978). Plaintiff did not allege any violations of rights guaranteed by the United States  
26 Constitution and federal law, and the Defendants named in the original Complaint—the  
27 Durango Jail and Lower Buckeye Jail—are buildings, not people or legally created entities  
28 capable of being sued.

1 **III. Leave to Amend**

2 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff’s Complaint will be dismissed for failure to allege  
3 a jurisdictional basis. Within 30 days, Plaintiff may submit a first amended complaint to cure  
4 the deficiencies outlined above. The Clerk of Court will mail Plaintiff a court-approved form  
5 to use for filing a first amended complaint. If Plaintiff fails to use the court-approved form,  
6 the Court may strike the amended complaint and dismiss this action without further notice  
7 to Plaintiff.

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

12 If Plaintiff files an amended complaint, Plaintiff must write short, plain statements  
13 telling the Court: (1) the constitutional right Plaintiff believes was violated; (2) the name of  
14 the Defendant who violated the right; (3) exactly what that Defendant did or failed to do;  
15 (4) how the action or inaction of that Defendant is connected to the violation of Plaintiff’s  
16 constitutional right; and (5) what specific injury Plaintiff suffered because of that  
17 Defendant’s conduct. See Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362, 371-72, 377 (1976).

18 Plaintiff must repeat this process for each person he names as a Defendant. If Plaintiff  
19 fails to affirmatively link the conduct of each named Defendant with the specific injury  
20 suffered by Plaintiff, the allegations against that Defendant will be dismissed for failure to  
21 state a claim. **Conclusory allegations that a Defendant or group of Defendants have  
22 violated a constitutional right are not acceptable and will be dismissed.**

23 A first amended complaint supersedes the original complaint. Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963  
24 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992); Hal Roach Studios v. Richard Feiner & Co., 896 F.2d 1542,  
25 1546 (9th Cir. 1990). After amendment, the Court will treat an original complaint as  
26 nonexistent. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262. Any cause of action that was raised in the original  
27 complaint is waived if it is not raised in a first amended complaint. King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d  
28 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

1 **IV. Warnings**

2 **A. Address Changes**

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

7 **B. Copies**

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

11 **C. Possible “Strike”**

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

21 **D. Possible Dismissal**

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

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1 **IT IS ORDERED:**

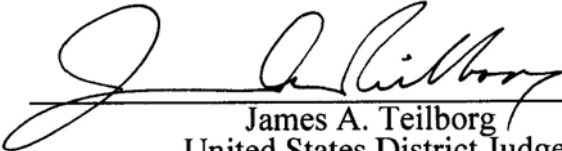
2 (1) The Complaint (Doc. 1) is **dismissed** for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff has  
3 **30 days** from the date this Order is filed to file a first amended complaint in compliance with  
4 this Order.

5 (2) If Plaintiff fails to file an amended complaint within 30 days, the Clerk of  
6 Court must, without further notice, enter a judgment of dismissal of this action with prejudice  
7 that states that the dismissal may count as a “strike” under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

8 (3) The Clerk of Court must mail Plaintiff a court-approved form for filing a civil  
9 rights complaint by a prisoner.

10 DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011.

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James A. Teilborg  
United States District Judge