

§ 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).

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-defendantunlawfully-harmed-me accusation." <u>Ashcroft v. Iqbal</u>, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009).
"Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory
statements, do not suffice." <u>Id.</u>

"[A] complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to 'state a 11 claim to relief that is plausible on its face." Id. (quoting Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 12 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). A claim is plausible "when the plaintiff pleads factual content 13 that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the 14 misconduct alleged." Id. "Determining whether a complaint states a plausible claim for 15 relief [is] ... a context-specific task that requires the reviewing court to draw on its judicial 16 experience and common sense." Id. at 1950. Thus, although a plaintiff's specific factual 17 allegations may be consistent with a constitutional claim, a court must assess whether there 18 are other "more likely explanations" for a defendant's conduct. Id. at 1951. 19

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

If the Court determines that a pleading could be cured by the allegation of other facts,
a *pro se* litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint before dismissal of the
action. See Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127-29 (9th Cir. 2000) (*en banc*). The Court
should not, however, advise the litigant how to cure the defects. This type of advice "would

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undermine district judges' role as impartial decisionmakers." <u>Pliler v. Ford</u>, 542 U.S. 225,
 231 (2004); <u>see also Lopez</u>, 203 F.3d at 1131 n.13 (declining to decide whether the court was
 required to inform a litigant of deficiencies). The Court will dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint
 for failure to state a claim, but because the Complaint may possibly be saved by amendment,
 will dismiss the Complaint with leave to amend.

## 6 **III.** Complaint

Plaintiff sues Mesa Police Officers Alexander and Hurley. Plaintiff's sole ground for
relief is that Defendants used excessive force against him during arrest. Plaintiff alleges that
he suffered a black eye, cuts that required stitches, and a tooth that was knocked out.

- 10 Plaintiff seeks money damages.
- 11 **IV.** Failure to State a Claim

12 The use of excessive force by police officers in the course of an arrest can violate the 13 arrestee's Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable seizures. See White by White v. Pierce County, 797 F.2d 812, 816 (9th Cir. 1986). The Fourth Amendment does 14 15 not prohibit the use of reasonable force. Tatum v. City & County of San Francisco, 441 F.3d 16 1090, 1095 (9th Cir. 2006). Whether the force was excessive depends on "whether the 17 officers' actions [were] 'objectively reasonable' in light of the facts and circumstances 18 confronting them, without regard to their underlying intent or motivation." Graham v. 19 Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 397 (1989); Tatum, 441 F.3d at 1095; Lolli v. County of Orange, 351 20 F.3d 410, 415 (9th Cir. 2003). The Court must balance the nature and quality of the intrusion 21 against the countervailing governmental interests at stake. Graham, 490 U.S. at 396; Lolli, 22 351 F.3d at 415. Moreover,

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[t]he "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. .... "Not every push or shove, even if it may later seem unnecessary in the peace of a judge's chambers," violates the Fourth Amendment.

<u>Graham</u>, 490 U.S. at 396 (citations omitted). "Whether a particular use of force was
'objectively reasonable' depends on several factors, including the severity of the crime that
prompted the use of force, the threat posed by a suspect to the police or to others, and

1 whether the suspect was resisting arrest." <u>Tatum</u>, 441 F.3d at 1095.

In this case, Plaintiff has not provided sufficient facts for the Court to determine whether the use of force was reasonable. Plaintiff states both that Defendants used force against him because he was resisting arrest, and that he was sitting on curb with his hands cuffed during the attack. Plaintiff must provide more facts regarding his arrest such as a description of the severity of the crime for which we was arrested and whether he posed a threat to the arresting officers or others during the arrest. The Court will dismiss the Complaint for failure to state a claim.

9 V. Leave to Amend

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

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

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

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### 1 VI. Warnings

A. Release

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

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## **B.** Address Changes

8 Plaintiff must file and serve a notice of a change of address in accordance with Rule
9 83.3(d) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff must not include a motion for other
10 relief with a notice of change of address. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this
11 action.

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## C. Copies

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

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## D. Possible "Strike"

17 Because the Complaint has been dismissed for failure to state a claim, if Plaintiff fails 18 to file an amended complaint correcting the deficiencies identified in this Order, the dismissal may count as a "strike" under the "3-strikes" provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). 19 20 Under the 3-strikes provision, a prisoner may not bring a civil action or appeal a civil 21 judgment in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 "if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior 22 occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a 23 court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, 24 or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under 25 imminent danger of serious physical injury." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

### E. Possible Dismissal

If Plaintiff fails to timely comply with every provision of this Order, including these
warnings, the Court may dismiss this action without further notice. <u>See Ferdik</u>, 963 F.2d at

1 1260-61 (a district court may dismiss an action for failure to comply with any order of the
 2 Court).

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# **IT IS ORDERED:**

(1) Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. 2) is **granted**.

5 (2) As required by the accompanying Order to the appropriate government agency,
6 Plaintiff must pay the \$350.00 filing fee and is not assessed an initial partial filing fee.

7 (3) The Complaint (Doc. 1) is **dismissed** for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff has
8 **30 days** from the date this Order is filed to file a first amended complaint in compliance with
9 this Order.

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

13 (5) The Clerk of Court must mail Plaintiff a court-approved form for filing a civil
14 rights complaint by a prisoner.

DATED this 29th day of June, 2011.

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## G. Murray Snow United States District Judge

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

1. <u>Who May Use This Form</u>. 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. <u>The Form</u>. 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. <u>Your Signature</u>. 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. <u>The Filing Fee</u>. 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. <u>Original and Judge's Copy</u>. 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. <u>Where to File</u>. You should file your complaint in the division where you were confined when your rights were allegedly violated. <u>See</u> 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:	OR	Tucson Division:
U.S. District Court Clerk		U.S. District Court Clerk
U.S. Courthouse, Suite 130		U.S. Courthouse, Suite 1500
401 West Washington Street, SPC 10	0	405 West Congress Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-2119		Tucson, Arizona 85701-5010

7. <u>Change of Address</u>. 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. <u>Certificate of Service</u>. 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. <u>See</u> 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	v certify that a copy of the fo	pregoing document was mailed
this	(month, d	lay, year) to:
Name:		
Address		
	Attorney for Defendant(s)	

(Signature)

9. <u>Amended Complaint</u>. 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. <u>See</u> 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. <u>Exhibits</u>. 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. <u>Letters and Motions</u>. 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. <u>Your Name</u>. Print your name, prison or inmate number, and institutional mailing address on the lines provided.

2. <u>Defendants</u>. 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. <u>Jury Demand</u>. 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. <u>Nature of Suit</u>. Mark whether you are filing the complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for state, county, or city defendants; "<u>Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics</u> <u>Agents</u>" for federal defendants; or "other." If you mark "other," identify the source of that authority.

2. <u>Location</u>. Identify the institution and city where the alleged violation of your rights occurred.

3. <u>Defendants</u>. 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. <u>Counts</u>. You must identify which civil right was violated. You may allege the violation of only one civil right per count.

2. <u>Issue Involved</u>. 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. <u>Supporting Facts</u>. 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. <u>Injury</u>. State precisely how you were injured by the alleged violation of your rights.

5. <u>Administrative Remedies</u>. You must exhaust any available administrative remedies before you file a civil rights complaint. <u>See</u> 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)	,	) CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT ) BY A PRISONER )
(4)	,	) Driginal Complaint
Defendant(s).		) First Amended Complaint
Check if there are additional Defendants and attach page 1-A listing them.		) 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

2. Institution/city where violation occurred:

# **B. DEFENDANTS**

1.	Name of first Defendant:	The first Defendant is employed as:
	At	(Institution)
2.	Name of second Defendant:	The second Defendant is employed as:
	(Position and Title)	(Institution)
3.	Name of third Defendant:at	
	atat	(Institution)
4.	Name of fourth Defendant:atatatatat	
	(Position and Title)	(Institution)
If y	you name more than four Defendants, answer the questions listed above	for each additional Defendant on a separate page.
	C. PREVIOUS LAWS	UITS
1.	Have you filed any other lawsuits while you were a prison	her? $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No
2.	If yes, how many lawsuits have you filed? Describ	be the previous lawsuits:
	a. First prior lawsuit:	
	1. Parties:vvv.	
	2. Court and case number:	<u>.</u> .
	3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appeal	led? Is it still pending?)
	b. Second prior lawsuit:	
	1. Parties:vvvv.	
	2. Court and case number:	
	3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appeal	led? Is it still pending?)
	c. Third prior lawsuit:	
	1. Parties:vv.	
	2. Court and case number:	
	<ol> <li>Court and case number:</li></ol>	led? Is it still pending?)
	e. Result (mus die sube distilissed. mus it upped	

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 othe	er federal	civil	right	that was	violated:
						0		

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:
	<b>Supporting Facts.</b> State as briefly as possible the FACTS supporting Count I. Describe exactly what <b>h Defendant</b> did or did not do that violated your rights. State the facts clearly in your own words without ng 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?         b. Did you submit a request for administrative relief on Count I?         c. Did you appeal your request for relief on Count I to the highest level?         d. If you did not submit or appeal a request for administrative relief at any level, briefly explain why you did not.

## COUNT II

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

	_			Medical care
	Disciplinary proceedings	□ Property	Exercise of religion	□ Retaliation
	Excessive force by an officer	$\Box$ Threat to sat	fety 🗌 Other:	
	-			
3.	Supporting Facts. State as brief	fly as possible the	e FACTS supporting Count II.	. Describe exactly wl

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 a	appeals) a	available
	at your institution?	□ Yes	🗆 No

☐ Yes

☐ Yes

 $\Box$  No

🗌 No

b. Did you submit a request for administrative relief on Count II?

c. Did you appeal your request for relief on Count II to the highest level?

d.	If you did not	t submit or appeal	a request for	administrative	relief at an	y level, br	iefly e	xplain	why
	you did not.								

## COUNT III

1.	State the	constitutional	or other	federal	civil ri	ght that	was	violated:

2.	Count III. Identify the issue invo	v	one. State additional issues in	n separate counts.
	□ Basic necessities	🗆 Mail	$\Box$ Access to the court	☐ Medical care
	Disciplinary proceedings	Property	Exercise of religion	□ Retaliation
	$\Box$ Excessive force by an officer	☐ Threat to safety	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 a	appeals) a	available
	at your institution?	□ Yes	🗌 No

**Yes** 

□ Yes

□ No

- b. Did you submit a request for administrative relief on Count III?
- c. Did you appeal your request for relief on Count III to the highest level?
- 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.