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

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11 Eric Johnson Vest,) No. CV 12-0323-PHX-RCB (LOA)

12 Plaintiff,) **ORDER**

13 vs.)

14 Maricopa County Sheriff's Office,)

15 Defendant.)

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17 Plaintiff Eric Johnson Vest, who is confined in the Fourth Avenue Jail in Phoenix,
18 Arizona, has filed a *pro se* civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and an
19 Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*. The Court will dismiss the Complaint with leave
20 to amend.

21 **I. Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* and Filing Fee**

22 Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* will be granted. 28 U.S.C.
23 § 1915(a). Plaintiff must pay the statutory filing fee of \$350.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).
24 The Court will not assess an initial partial filing fee. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). The statutory
25 fee will be collected monthly in payments of 20% of the previous month's income each time
26 the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). The Court will enter a
27 separate Order requiring the appropriate government agency to collect and forward the fees
28 according to the statutory formula.

1 **II. Statutory Screening of Prisoner Complaints**

2 The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against
3 a governmental entity or an officer or an employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C.
4 § 1915A(a). The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if a plaintiff has raised
5 claims that are legally frivolous or malicious, that fail to state a claim upon which relief may
6 be granted, or that seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.
7 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), (2).

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

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

23 But as the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has instructed, courts
24 must “continue to construe *pro se* filings liberally.” Hebbe v. Pliler, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th
25 Cir. 2010). A “complaint [filed by a *pro se* prisoner] ‘must be held to less stringent standards
26 than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.’” Id. (quoting Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89,
27 94 (2007) (*per curiam*)).

28 If the Court determines that a pleading could be cured by the allegation of other facts,

1 a *pro se* litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint before dismissal of the
2 action. See Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127-29 (9th Cir. 2000) (*en banc*). The Court
3 should not, however, advise the litigant how to cure the defects. This type of advice “would
4 undermine district judges’ role as impartial decisionmakers.” Pliler v. Ford, 542 U.S. 225,
5 231 (2004); see also Lopez, 203 F.3d at 1131 n.13 (declining to decide whether the court was
6 required to inform a litigant of deficiencies). The Court will dismiss Plaintiff’s Complaint
7 for failure to state a claim, but because the Complaint may possibly be saved by amendment,
8 the Court will dismiss the Complaint with leave to amend.

9 **III. Complaint**

10 Plaintiff alleges three counts for threat to safety, unsafe equipment, and medical
11 malpractice. Plaintiff sues only the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office. Plaintiff seeks
12 compensatory relief.

13 Plaintiff alleges the following facts in his Complaint: there was no ladder for use to
14 get into and down from bunks at the jail. On January 16, 2012, Plaintiff jumped off his bunk
15 to get down from his bunk and twisted his little toe. He contacted medical the day of the
16 injury. Plaintiff had not been seen by medical as of the date he filed his Complaint. Plaintiff
17 asserts that “they” did not properly diagnose his injury, which he describes as a slight
18 fracture.

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

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

27 **A. MCSO**

28 Plaintiff only sues the MCSO; however, it is not a proper defendant in a § 1983 case.

1 Claims under § 1983 are directed at “bodies politic and corporate.” Monell v. Dep’t of Soc.
2 Servs., 436 U.S. 658, 688-89 (1978). Under the Civil Rights Act of 1871, Congress intended
3 municipalities and other local government units to be included among those persons to whom
4 § 1983 applies.¹ Id. at 689-690. In Arizona, the responsibility for operating jails and caring
5 for prisoners is placed by law upon the sheriff and the County. See A.R.S. §§ 11-251(8),
6 11-291(A), 11-441(A)(5), 31-101. MCSO is simply an administrative creation of the sheriff
7 to allow him to carry out his statutory duties; it is not a “person” amenable to suit pursuant
8 to § 1983. See e.g., Petaway v. City of New Haven Police Dep’t, 541 F. Supp.2d 504 (D.
9 Conn. 2008); Pahle v. Colebrookdale Tp., 227 F. Supp.2d 361 (E.D. Pa. 2002). Accordingly,
10 MCSO will be dismissed from this action.

11 **B. Lack of Ladders**

12 Plaintiff characterizes the absence of ladders to access bunks as a threat to safety. To
13 state a claim under § 1983 for failure to protect or threats to safety, an inmate must allege
14 facts to support that he was incarcerated under conditions posing a substantial risk of harm
15 and that prison officials were “deliberately indifferent” to those risks. Farmer v. Brennan,
16 511 U.S. 825, 832-33 (1994). To adequately allege deliberate indifference, a plaintiff must
17 allege facts to support that a defendant knew of, but disregarded, an excessive risk to inmate
18 safety. Id. at 837. That is, “the official must both [have been] aware of facts from which the
19

20 ¹ Thus, a municipality, such as a city or county, is a “person” for purposes of § 1983
21 and may be sued. See Leatherman v. Tarrant County Narcotics Intelligence and
22 Coordination Unit, 507 U.S. 163, 166 (1993); Monell, 436 U.S. at 694. To state a claim
23 against a municipality under § 1983, a plaintiff must allege facts to support that his
24 constitutional rights were violated pursuant to a policy or custom of the municipality. See
25 Cortez v. County of Los Angeles, 294 F.3d 1186, 1188 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing Monell, 436
26 U.S. at 690-91); Thompson v. City of Los Angeles, 885 F.2d 1439, 1443 (9th Cir. 1989)).
27 Thus, a municipality may not be sued solely because an injury was inflicted by one of its
28 employees or agents. Long v. County of Los Angeles, 442 F.3d 1178, 1185 (9th Cir. 2006).
A § 1983 claim against a municipal defendant “cannot succeed as a matter of law” unless a
plaintiff: (1) alleges that the municipal defendant maintains a policy or custom pertinent to
the plaintiff’s alleged injury; and (2) explains how such policy or custom caused the
plaintiff’s injury. Sadoski v. Mosley, 435 F.3d 1076, 1080 (9th Cir. 2006) (affirming
dismissal of a municipal defendant pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6)).

1 inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm exist[ed], and he must also
2 [have] draw[n] the inference.” Id.

3 Plaintiff alleges that he did not have access to a ladder for access to his bunk and that
4 he injured a toe when he jumped out of a bunk. Plaintiff fails to allege facts to support that
5 the absence of a ladder posed a *substantial* threat to his safety. Moreover, Plaintiff fails to
6 allege facts to support that anyone knew that the failure to provide ladders posed a
7 *substantial* threat to his safety but failed to act to alleviate that threat. Finally, as discussed
8 above, Plaintiff fails to name a proper Defendant in connection with this claims. For all of
9 these reasons, Plaintiff fails to state a claim.

10 C. Medical Care

11 Plaintiff also asserts the denial of medical care for his toe. Not every claim by a
12 prisoner relating to inadequate medical treatment states a violation of the Eighth or
13 Fourteenth Amendment. To state a § 1983 medical claim, a plaintiff must show that the
14 defendants acted with “deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.” Jett v. Penner, 439
15 F.3d 1091, 1096 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 104 (1976)). A
16 plaintiff must show (1) a “serious medical need” by demonstrating that failure to treat the
17 condition could result in further significant injury or the unnecessary and wanton infliction
18 of pain and (2) the defendant’s response was deliberately indifferent. Jett, 439 F.3d at 1096
19 (quotations omitted).

20 “Deliberate indifference is a high legal standard.” Toguchi v. Chung, 391 F.3d 1051,
21 1060 (9th Cir. 2004). To act with deliberate indifference, a prison official must both know
22 of and disregard an excessive risk to inmate health; “the official must both be aware of facts
23 from which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm exists, and
24 he must also draw the inference.” Farmer, 511 U.S. at 837. Deliberate indifference in the
25 medical context may be shown by a purposeful act or failure to respond to a prisoner’s pain
26 or possible medical need and harm caused by the indifference. Jett, 439 F.3d at 1096.
27 Deliberate indifference may also be shown when a prison official intentionally denies,
28 delays, or interferes with medical treatment or by the way prison doctors respond to the

1 prisoner's medical needs. Estelle, 429 U.S. at 104-05; Jett, 439 F.3d at 1096.

2 Deliberate indifference is a higher standard than negligence or lack of ordinary due
3 care for the prisoner's safety. Farmer, 511 U.S. at 835. "Neither negligence nor gross
4 negligence will constitute deliberate indifference." Clement v. California Dep't of
5 Corrections, 220 F. Supp.2d 1098, 1105 (N.D. Cal. 2002); see also Broughton v. Cutter
6 Labs., 622 F.2d 458, 460 (9th Cir. 1980) (mere claims of "indifference," "negligence," or
7 "medical malpractice" do not support a claim under § 1983). "A difference of opinion does
8 not amount to deliberate indifference to [a plaintiff's] serious medical needs." Sanchez v.
9 Vild, 891 F.2d 240, 242 (9th Cir. 1989). A mere delay in medical care, without more, is
10 insufficient to state a claim against prison officials for deliberate indifference. See Shapley
11 v. Nevada Bd. of State Prison Comm'rs, 766 F.2d 404, 407 (9th Cir. 1985). The indifference
12 must be substantial. The action must rise to a level of "unnecessary and wanton infliction
13 of pain." Estelle, 429 U.S. at 105.

14 While Plaintiff alleges a "slight fracture" of his toe, he does not allege facts to support
15 that his injury rose to the level of a serious medical need. His description of the injury as a
16 "slight" fracture reflects that it was not a serious medical need. Further, Plaintiff fails to
17 allege facts to support that anyone acted with deliberate indifference to his injury. Rather,
18 he alleges that he had not been seen by medical, but he does not allege facts to support that
19 anyone in medical knew that his toe injury was a serious medical need, or knew of facts
20 giving rise to that inference, but acted with deliberate indifference to that need. Finally, as
21 noted above, Plaintiff fails to name a proper Defendant or facts to connect such Defendant
22 to this claim. Accordingly, Plaintiff fails to state a claim for deliberate indifference to serious
23 medical needs.

24 **V. Leave to Amend**

25 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff's Complaint will be dismissed for failure to state
26 a claim upon which relief may be granted. Within 30 days, Plaintiff may submit a first
27 amended complaint to cure the deficiencies outlined above. The Clerk of Court will mail
28 Plaintiff a court-approved form to use for filing a first amended complaint. If Plaintiff fails

1 to use the court-approved form, the Court may strike the amended complaint and dismiss this
2 action without further notice to Plaintiff.

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

7 A first amended complaint supersedes the original complaint. Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963
8 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992); Hal Roach Studios v. Richard Feiner & Co., 896 F.2d 1542,
9 1546 (9th Cir. 1990). After amendment, the Court will treat an original complaint as
10 nonexistent. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262. Any cause of action that was raised in the original
11 complaint is waived if it is not raised in a first amended complaint. King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d
12 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

13 **VI. Warnings**

14 **A. Release**

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

19 **B. Address Changes**

20 Plaintiff must file and serve a notice of a change of address in accordance with Rule
21 83.3(d) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff must not include a motion for other
22 relief with a notice of change of address. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this
23 action.

24 **C. Copies**

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

28 . . .

1 **D. Possible “Strike”**

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

11 **E. Possible Dismissal**

12 If Plaintiff fails to timely comply with every provision of this Order, including these
13 warnings, the Court may dismiss this action without further notice. See Ferdik, 963 F.2d at
14 1260-61 (a district court may dismiss an action for failure to comply with any order of the
15 Court).

16 **IT IS ORDERED:**

- 17 (1) Plaintiff’s Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. 2) is **granted**.
18 (2) As required by the accompanying Order to the appropriate government agency,
19 Plaintiff must pay the \$350.00 filing fee and is not assessed an initial partial filing fee.
20 (3) The Complaint (Doc. 1) is **dismissed** for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff has
21 **30 days** from the date this Order is filed to file a first amended complaint in compliance with
22 this Order.
23 (4) If Plaintiff fails to file an amended complaint within 30 days, the Clerk of
24 Court must, without further notice, enter a judgment of dismissal of this action with prejudice
25 that states that the dismissal may count as a “strike” under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).
26 (5) The Clerk of Court must mail Plaintiff a court-approved form for filing a civil

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1 rights complaint by a prisoner.

2 DATED this 16th day of March, 2012.

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Robert C. Broomfield
Senior 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. 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 II

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

2. **Count II.** 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 II. 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 II? Yes No

c. Did you appeal your request for relief on Count II 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.