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

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12 Brent Daniel Van DeCastele,

No. CV 12-1158-PHX-RCB (BSB)

13

Plaintiff,

ORDER

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vs.

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Maricopa County, et al.,

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Defendants.

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

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Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* will be granted. 28 U.S.C.

1 § 1915(a). Plaintiff must pay the statutory filing fee of \$350.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).
2 The Court will not assess an initial partial filing fee. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). The statutory
3 fee will be collected monthly in payments of 20% of the previous month's income each time
4 the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). The Court will enter a
5 separate Order requiring the appropriate government agency to collect and forward the fees
6 according to the statutory formula.

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

8 The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against
9 a governmental entity or an officer or an employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C.
10 § 1915A(a). The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if a plaintiff has raised
11 claims that are legally frivolous or malicious, that fail to state a claim upon which relief may
12 be granted, or that seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.
13 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), (2).

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

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

1 But as the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has instructed, courts
2 must “continue to construe *pro se* filings liberally.” Hebbe v. Pliler, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th
3 Cir. 2010). A “complaint [filed by a *pro se* prisoner] ‘must be held to less stringent standards
4 than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.’” Id. (quoting Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89,
5 94 (2007) (*per curiam*)).

6 If the Court determines that a pleading could be cured by the allegation of other facts,
7 a *pro se* litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint before dismissal of the
8 action. See Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127-29 (9th Cir. 2000) (*en banc*). The Court
9 should not, however, advise the litigant how to cure the defects. This type of advice “would
10 undermine district judges’ role as impartial decisionmakers.” Pliler v. Ford, 542 U.S. 225,
11 231 (2004); see also Lopez, 203 F.3d at 1131 n.13 (declining to decide whether the court was
12 required to inform a litigant of deficiencies). The Court will dismiss Plaintiff’s Complaint
13 for failure to state a claim, but because the Complaint may possibly be saved by amendment,
14 the Court will dismiss the Complaint with leave to amend.

15 **III. Complaint**

16 Plaintiff alleges three counts for denial of constitutionally adequate medical care and
17 threats to safety. Plaintiff sues Maricopa County and Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph M.
18 Arpaio. Plaintiff seeks compensatory relief.

19 Plaintiff alleges the following facts in his Complaint: at some point, Plaintiff was held
20 in the Lower Buckeye Jail and was assigned to a top bunk without a guardrail or ladder to
21 climb down from the bunk. As Plaintiff was climbing down from the bunk, he fell and
22 landed on a steel table that was bolted to the wall. Plaintiff’s back was x-rayed and the x-
23 rays showed that he had broken the T-10 and T-11 vertebra. Nevertheless, Plaintiff was left
24 lying in pain for four days before he was rushed to Maricopa County Hospital for the broken
25 vertebra and internal bleeding. Plaintiff was hospitalized for three days. Plaintiff suffered
26 severe pain and sustained nerve damage in his back. Plaintiff asserts that, “Doctors neglected
27 to see fractures on exrays and did not[h]ing to help me and causing sever pain and nerve
28 damage in back.” (Doc. 1 at 5.)

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

2 A plaintiff may seek relief for violations of his federal constitutional or statutory rights
3 under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. To state a claim under § 1983, a plaintiff must allege facts
4 supporting that (1) the conduct about which he complains was committed by a person acting
5 under the color of state law and (2) the conduct deprived him of a federal constitutional or
6 statutory right. Wood v. Ostrander, 879 F.2d 583, 587 (9th Cir. 1989). In addition, a
7 plaintiff must allege that he suffered a specific injury as a result of the conduct of a particular
8 defendant and he must allege an affirmative link between the injury and the conduct of that
9 defendant. Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362, 371-72, 377 (1976).

10 **A. Maricopa County**

11 Plaintiff sues Maricopa County. A municipality, such as a city or county, is a
12 “person” for purposes of § 1983 and may be sued. See Leatherman v. Tarrant County
13 Narcotics Intelligence and Coordination Unit, 507 U.S. 163, 166 (1993); Monell v. Dep’t of
14 Soc. Servs., 436 U.S. 658, 694 (1978). To state a claim against a municipality under § 1983,
15 a plaintiff must allege facts to support that his constitutional rights were violated pursuant
16 to a policy or custom of the municipality. Cortez v. County of Los Angeles, 294 F.3d 1186,
17 1188 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing Monell, 436 U.S. at 690-91); Thompson v. City of Los Angeles,
18 885 F.2d 1439, 1443 (9th Cir. 1989)). A municipality may not be sued solely because an
19 injury was inflicted by one of its employees or agents. Long v. County of Los Angeles, 442
20 F.3d 1178, 1185 (9th Cir. 2006). Therefore, a § 1983 claim against a municipal defendant
21 “cannot succeed as a matter of law” unless a plaintiff: (1) contends that the municipal
22 defendant maintains a policy or custom pertinent to the plaintiff’s alleged injury; and (2)
23 explains how such policy or custom caused the plaintiff’s injury. Sadoski v. Mosley, 435
24 F.3d 1076, 1080 (9th Cir. 2006) (affirming dismissal of a municipal defendant pursuant to
25 Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6)).

26 Plaintiff fails to allege facts to support that Maricopa County maintained a policy or
27 custom that resulted in the violation of Plaintiff’s federal constitutional rights. He also fails
28 to allege facts to support that any constitutional injury was the result of a municipal policy

1 or custom. Accordingly, Plaintiff also fails to state a claim against Maricopa County and it
2 will be dismissed.

3 **B. Sheriff Arpaio**

4 Plaintiff also sues Sheriff Arpaio. Although Arpaio may properly be sued for
5 constitutional violations, Plaintiff fails to state a claim against him. “A plaintiff must allege
6 facts, not simply conclusions, that show that an individual was personally involved in the
7 deprivation of his civil rights.” Barren v. Harrington, 152 F.3d 1193, 1194 (9th Cir. 1998).
8 For an individual to be liable in his official capacity, a plaintiff must allege that the official
9 acted as a result of a policy, practice, or custom. See Cortez, 294 F.3d at 1188. Further,
10 there is no *respondeat superior* liability under § 1983, so a defendant’s position as the
11 supervisor of a someone who allegedly violated a plaintiff’s constitutional rights does not
12 make him liable. Monell, 436 U.S. at 691; Taylor v. List, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir.
13 1989). A supervisor in his individual capacity, “is only liable for constitutional violations
14 of his subordinates if the supervisor participated in or directed the violations, or knew of the
15 violations and failed to act to prevent them.” Taylor, 880 F.2d at 1045.

16 Plaintiff fails to allege any facts against Arpaio. Plaintiff does not allege that Arpaio
17 directly violated his constitutional rights. He also fails to allege facts to support that
18 Plaintiff’s constitutional rights were violated as a result of a policy or custom promulgated
19 or endorsed by Arpaio. Accordingly, Arpaio will also be dismissed.

20 **C. Medical Care**

21 Plaintiff designates Counts I and III as claims for constitutionally inadequate medical
22 care. Not every claim by a prisoner relating to inadequate medical treatment states a
23 violation of the Eighth or Fourteenth Amendment. To state a § 1983 medical claim, a
24 plaintiff must show that the defendants acted with “deliberate indifference to serious medical
25 needs.” Jett v. Penner, 439 F.3d 1091, 1096 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting Estelle v. Gamble, 429
26 U.S. 97, 104 (1976)). A plaintiff must show (1) a “serious medical need” by demonstrating
27 that failure to treat the condition could result in further significant injury or the unnecessary
28 and wanton infliction of pain and (2) the defendant’s response was deliberately indifferent.

1 Jett, 439 F.3d at 1096 (quotations omitted).

2 “Deliberate indifference is a high legal standard.” Toguchi v. Chung, 391 F.3d 1051,
3 1060 (9th Cir. 2004). To act with deliberate indifference, a prison official must both know
4 of and disregard an excessive risk to inmate health; “the official must both be aware of facts
5 from which the inference could be drawn that a substantial risk of serious harm exists, and
6 he must also draw the inference.” Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 837 (1994). Deliberate
7 indifference in the medical context may be shown by a purposeful act or failure to respond
8 to a prisoner’s pain or possible medical need and harm caused by the indifference. Jett, 439
9 F.3d at 1096. Deliberate indifference may also be shown when a prison official intentionally
10 denies, delays, or interferes with medical treatment or by the way prison doctors respond to
11 the prisoner’s medical needs. Estelle, 429 U.S. at 104-05; Jett, 439 F.3d at 1096.

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

24 Plaintiff sufficiently alleges that he had a serious medical need. However, he fails to
25 allege when he fell and injured his back. Further, Plaintiff fails to allege facts to support
26 when, who, and how he notified any jail personnel of his injury. He does not allege facts to
27 support that any jail official knew of his injuries but disregarded Plaintiff’s serious medical
28 need. Further, it is unclear when he was x-rayed, i.e., the day he fell or sometime later. It

1 is also unclear whether there was a delay in being initially seen for his injuries or whether
2 he was left in his cell after x-rays had been taken. Plaintiff must allege facts to support that
3 some jail officer or medical personnel knew, or should have known, that Plaintiff was
4 seriously injured and that such officer or medical personnel failed to act to treat or alleviate
5 Plaintiff's medical condition. Plaintiff must also name such jail officer or medical personnel
6 as a defendant. Because Plaintiff has neither named a jail officer or medical personnel who
7 acted with deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs, Plaintiff fails to state a claim
8 in Counts I or III.

9 **D. Threat to Safety**

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

19 Plaintiff appears to contend that the absence of a ladder posed a threat to his safety
20 and that he fell and injured himself because of the absence of a ladder.¹ Plaintiff fails to
21 allege facts to support that the absence of a ladder posed a *substantial* threat to his safety.
22 Moreover, Plaintiff fails to allege facts to support that anyone knew that the failure to provide
23 ladders posed a *substantial* threat to his safety but failed to act to alleviate that threat.
24 Further, Plaintiff fails to allege facts to connect either Defendant, or anyone else, to the
25 asserted threat to his safety. For all of these reasons, Plaintiff fails to state a claim for threat
26 to safety.

27 . . .

28 ¹ The presence of a ladder does not eliminate the possibility of a fall.

1 **V. Leave to Amend**

2 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff’s Complaint will be dismissed for failure to state
3 a claim upon which relief may be granted. Within 30 days, Plaintiff may submit a first
4 amended complaint to cure the deficiencies outlined above. The Clerk of Court will mail
5 Plaintiff a court-approved form to use for filing a first amended complaint. If Plaintiff fails
6 to use the court-approved form, the Court may strike the amended complaint and dismiss this
7 action without further notice 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 A first amended complaint supersedes the original complaint. Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963
13 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992); Hal Roach Studios v. Richard Feiner & Co., 896 F.2d 1542,
14 1546 (9th Cir. 1990). After amendment, the Court will treat an original complaint as
15 nonexistent. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262. Any cause of action that was raised in the original
16 complaint is waived if it is not raised in a first amended complaint. King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d
17 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

18 **VI. Warnings**

19 **A. Release**

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

24 **B. Address Changes**

25 Plaintiff must file and serve a notice of a change of address in accordance with Rule
26 83.3(d) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff must not include a motion for other
27 relief with a notice of change of address. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this
28 action.

1 **C. 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 **D. 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* is **granted**. (Doc. 7.)

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) Plaintiff’s motion to order Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office to produce
21 Plaintiff’s inmate account statement is **denied** as moot. (Doc. 9.)

22 (4) The Complaint (Doc. 1) is **dismissed** for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff has
23 **30 days** from the date this Order is filed to file a first amended complaint in compliance with
24 this Order.


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

28 (6) The Clerk of Court must mail Plaintiff a court-approved form for filing a civil

1 rights complaint by a prisoner.

2 DATED this 28th day of August, 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 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.