

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

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

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

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

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

1 undermine district judges' role as impartial decisionmakers." Pliler v. Ford, 542 U.S. 225,
2 231 (2004); see also Lopez, 203 F.3d at 1131 n.13 (declining to decide whether the court was
3 required to inform a litigant of deficiencies). The Court will dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint
4 for failure to state a claim, but because the Complaint may possibly be saved by amendment,
5 the Court will dismiss the Complaint with leave to amend.

6 **III. Complaint**

7 Plaintiff alleges three counts for denial of necessities and retaliation. He sues only
8 Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph M. Arpaio. Plaintiff seeks compensatory relief.

9 **Background**

10 On August 28, 2012, Plaintiff was sentenced in Maricopa County Superior Court case
11 CR2009-138046 to serve 195 days in jail beginning that day, and not to be released until
12 March 11, 2013, with probation also to expire on March 11, 2013.¹

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

14 To state a claim under § 1983, a plaintiff must allege facts supporting that (1) the
15 conduct about which he complains was committed by a person acting under the color of state
16 law and (2) the conduct deprived him of a federal constitutional or statutory right. Wood v.
17 Outlander, 879 F.2d 583, 587 (9th Cir. 1989). Negligence is not sufficient to state a claim
18 under § 1983. Daniels v. Williams, 474 U.S. 327, 330-31 (1986). In addition, a plaintiff
19 must allege that he suffered a specific injury as a result of the conduct of a particular
20 defendant and he must allege an affirmative link between the injury and the conduct of that
21 defendant. Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362, 371-72, 377 (1976).

22 **A. Arpaio**

23 Plaintiff sues only Sheriff Arpaio. While Arpaio may be sued, Plaintiff fails to state
24 a claim against him.

25 To state a claim against a defendant, "[a] plaintiff must allege facts, not simply
26 conclusions, that show that an individual was personally involved in the deprivation of his
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28 ¹ See <http://www.courtminutes.maricopa.gov/docs/Criminal/082012/m5396057.pdf>
(last visited June 7, 2013).

1 civil rights.” Barren v. Harrington, 152 F.3d 1193, 1194 (9th Cir. 1998). For an individual
2 to be liable in his official capacity, a plaintiff must allege that the official acted as a result of
3 a policy, practice, or custom. See Cortez v. County of Los Angeles, 294 F.3d 1186, 1188
4 (9th Cir. 2001). Further, there is no *respondeat superior* liability under § 1983, so a
5 defendant’s position as the supervisor of someone who allegedly violated a plaintiff’s
6 constitutional rights does not make him liable. Monell v. Dep’t of Soc. Servs., 436 U.S. 658,
7 691 (1978); Taylor v. List, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989). A supervisor in his
8 individual capacity, “is only liable for constitutional violations of his subordinates if the
9 supervisor participated in or directed the violations, or knew of the violations and failed to
10 act to prevent them.” Taylor, 880 F.2d at 1045. In addition, where a defendant’s only
11 involvement in allegedly unconstitutional conduct is the denial of administrative grievances,
12 the failure to intervene on a prisoner’s behalf to remedy the alleged unconstitutional behavior
13 does not amount to active unconstitutional behavior for purposes of § 1983. See Shehee v.
14 Luttrell, 199 F.3d 295, 300 (6th Cir. 1999); accord Proctor v. Applegate, 661 F.Supp.2d 743,
15 765 (W.D. Mich. 2009); Stocker v. Warden, No. 1:07-CV-00589, 2009 WL 981323, at *10
16 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 13, 2009); Mintun v. Blades, No. CV-06-139, 2008 WL 711636, at *7 (D.
17 Idaho Mar. 14, 2008); see also Gregory v. City of Louisville, 444 F.3d 725, 751 (6th Cir.
18 2006) (a plaintiff must allege that a supervisor defendant did more than play a passive role
19 in an alleged violation or mere tacit approval thereof; a plaintiff must allege that the
20 supervisor defendant somehow encouraged or condoned the actions of their subordinates).

21 Plaintiff fails to allege facts to support that Arpaio directly violated his constitutional
22 rights. Plaintiff also fails to allege facts to support that his constitutional rights were violated
23 as a result of a policy or practice endorsed or promulgated by Arpaio. Accordingly, Plaintiff
24 fails to state a claim against Arpaio and he will be dismissed.

25 **B. Count I**

26 Plaintiff designates Count I as a claim for denial of basic necessities based on the
27 following allegations: at some point during his incarceration since September 2012, detention
28 officers woke Plaintiff early using vulgar and threatening language to rouse him and other

1 inmates. After working eight hours, Plaintiff and other inmates were locked down and lost
2 telephone and day room privileges. Certain second shift officers were abusive and
3 “parade[d] around with intent to use excessive force.” (Doc. 1 at 3.) Second shift sergeants
4 allowed “many of these occurrences” on second shift. (Id.) During his incarceration,
5 Plaintiff was subject to harassment, unfairness, disrespect, intimidation, and abuse of
6 authority by officers.

7 Plaintiff fails to allege facts that rise to the level of a constitutional violation. Verbal
8 threats or abuse, absent more, do not rise to the level of a constitutional violation. Somers
9 v. Thurman, 109 F.3d 614, 624 (9th Cir.1997); Oltarzewski v. Ruggiero, 830 F.2d 136, 139
10 (9th Cir. 1987)).

11 Further, while Plaintiff designates Count I as a claim for denial of basic necessities,
12 he fails to allege facts to support such a claim. A prison inmate’s claim for unconstitutional
13 conditions of confinement arises under the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition against cruel
14 and unusual punishment, Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520 (1979), while a pretrial detainee’s
15 claim for unconstitutional conditions arises under the Fourteenth Amendment, Frost v.
16 Agnos, 152 F.3d 1124, 1128 (9th Cir. 1998). Nevertheless, the same standard is applied. See
17 Frost, 152 F.3d at 1128. To state a claim for unconstitutional conditions of confinement, a
18 plaintiff must allege that a defendant’s acts or omissions have deprived the inmate of “the
19 minimal civilized measure of life’s necessities” and that the defendant acted with deliberate
20 indifference to an excessive risk to inmate health or safety. Allen v. Sakai, 48 F.3d 1082,
21 1087 (9th Cir. 1994) (citing Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 834 (1994)); see Estate of
22 Ford v. Ramirez-Palmer, 301 F.3d 1043, 1049-50 (9th Cir. 2002). That is, a plaintiff must
23 allege a constitutional deprivation that is objectively “sufficiently serious” to result in the
24 denial of “the minimal civilized measure of life’s necessities.” Farmer, 511 U.S. at 834.
25 “Indigent inmates have the right to personal hygiene supplies such as toothbrushes and soap,”
26 but whether conditions of confinement rise to the level of a constitutional violation may
27 depend, in part, on the duration of an inmate’s exposure to those conditions. Keenan v. Hall,

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1 83 F.3d 1083, 1089, 1091 (9th Cir. 1996) (citing Hutto v. Finney, 437 U.S. 678, 686-87
2 (1978)).

3 Plaintiff has not alleged facts to support when, where, how, by whom, and what
4 necessities he was denied. Plaintiff also has not alleged facts to support that any *defendant*
5 acted with deliberate indifference to an excessive risk to his health or safety caused by the
6 denial of any necessity. Accordingly, Plaintiff fails to state a claim in Count I and it will be
7 dismissed.

8 **C. Count II**

9 Plaintiff designates Count II as a claim for retaliation. A viable claim of First
10 Amendment retaliation contains five basic elements: (1) an assertion that a state actor took
11 some adverse action against an inmate (2) because of (3) that prisoner's protected conduct,
12 and that such action (4) chilled the inmate's exercise of his First Amendment rights (or that
13 the inmate suffered more than minimal harm) and (5) did not reasonably advance a legitimate
14 correctional goal. Rhodes v. Robinson, 408 F.3d 559, 567-68 (9th Cir. 2005); see also Hines
15 v. Gomez, 108 F.3d 265, 267 (9th Cir. 1997) (retaliation claims requires an inmate to show
16 (1) that the prison official acted in retaliation for the exercise of a constitutionally protected
17 right, and (2) that the action "advanced no legitimate penological interest"). The plaintiff has
18 the burden of demonstrating that his exercise of his First Amendment rights was a substantial
19 or motivating factor behind the defendants' conduct. Mt. Healthy City School Dist. Bd. of
20 Educ. v. Doyle, 429 U.S. 274, 287 (1977); Soranno's Gasco, Inc. v. Morgan, 874 F.2d 1310,
21 1314 (9th Cir. 1989).

22 In Count II, Plaintiff alleges the following: under jail rules, inmates who engage in a
23 group demonstration will be disciplined. On January 1, 2013, Plaintiff and several other
24 inmates did not "volunteer" to work and were disciplined for engaging in a group
25 demonstration. Plaintiff was placed in segregation for seven days. According to Plaintiff,
26 Sergeant 16493 and Lieutenant Coy failed to properly process Plaintiff's grievances to
27 conceal their own wrongdoing.

1 Plaintiff fails to allege facts to support that jail officials retaliated against him for
2 exercising his constitutional rights. Nor does Plaintiff allege facts to support that such
3 alleged retaliation chilled the exercise of his free speech, or other constitutional rights.
4 Moreover, as discussed above, Plaintiff fails to allege facts to connect the only named
5 Defendant to the claimed violation. For all of these reasons, Plaintiff fails to state a claim
6 for retaliation and Count II will be dismissed.

7 **D. Count III**

8 Plaintiff designates Count III as a claim for violation of his First Amendment free
9 speech rights. An inmate retains First Amendment free speech rights not inconsistent with
10 his status as a prisoner and with the legitimate penological objectives of the corrections
11 system. See Shaw v. Murphy, 532 U.S. 223, 231 (2001); Clement v. California Dep't of
12 Corr., 364 F.3d 1148, 1151 (9th Cir. 2004). However, jail personnel may regulate speech if
13 such restriction is reasonably related to legitimate penological interests and an inmate is not
14 deprived of all means of expression. Valdez, 302 F.3d at 1048 (citing Turner v. Safley, 482
15 U.S. 78, 92 (1986)). In this case, Plaintiff fails to allege facts to support that his free speech
16 rights were violated in a way inconsistent with his status and legitimate penological
17 objectives. He accordingly fails to state a First Amendment violation.

18 Plaintiff asserts that he was reprimanded, harassed or intimidated, then disciplined and
19 lost privileges, after he chose not to participate in the Inmate Work Program, which resulted
20 in his placement in segregation for participating in a demonstration. (Doc. 1, attach at 7.)
21 He also asserts that inmates are shouted at and cursed for expressing opinions and even
22 physically assaulted. According to Plaintiff, on January 9, 2013, he was placed in the Lower
23 Buckeye Jail with unsentenced inmates to silence him. Although not without ambiguity,
24 Plaintiff appears to be asserting that he was disciplined after he failed or refused to
25 “volunteer” for work and participated in a group action with other inmates.

26 As an initial matter, under state law, a county sheriff may “require prisoners who have
27 been sentenced to imprisonment in the county jail to perform such labor as he deems
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1 necessary, even if the prisoner was not sentenced to hard labor.”² Ariz. Rev. St. § 31-141(C).
2 Further, absent more, forced physical labor itself is not a constitutional violation. When
3 officials force sentenced inmates to work, the Eighth Amendment is not implicated unless
4 the work itself is beyond the physical strength of the inmate; endangers the life or health of
5 the inmate; or causes the inmate undue pain. Berry v. Bunnell, 39 F.3d 1056, 1057 (9th Cir.
6 1994) (citing Howard v. King, 707 F.2d 215, 219 (5th Cir. 1983); Ray v. Mabry, 556 F.2d
7 881, 882 (8th Cir. 1977)).

8 Rather than a free speech claim, Plaintiff may be attempting to assert a violation of
9 due process. A *pretrial detainee* has a substantive due process right against restrictions that
10 amount to punishment for a criminal offense. Valdez v. Rosenbaum, 302 F.3d 1039, 1045
11 (9th Cir. 2002) (citing United States v. Salerno, 481 U.S. 739, 746 (1987)); Bell v. Wolfish,
12 441 U.S. 520, 535 (1979); Redman v. County of San Diego, 942 F.2d 1435, 1440-41 (9th
13 Cir.1991) (*en banc*). This right is violated if restrictions are “imposed for the purpose of
14 punishment.” Bell, 441 U.S. at 535. But jail officials are entitled to impose restrictions to
15 effect confinement, and detention will necessarily affect a detainee’s ability to live as
16 comfortably as he might like; a *de minimis* level of imposition is permissible.³ Id. at 539

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18 ² Further,
19 no prisoner given a work assignment or required to perform any labor . . . shall
20 be considered an employee or to be employed by the county or the sheriff,
21 regardless whether the prisoner is compensated or not, nor shall an
22 employee-employer relationship exist between the prisoner and the county or
23 sheriff for any purpose and none of the rights or privileges otherwise accorded
24 to employees by law shall accrue to such prisoners.
25 A.R.S. § 31-141(F).

26 ³ Thus:
27 Not every disability imposed during pretrial detention amounts to
28 “punishment” in the constitutional sense, however. Once the Government has
 exercised its conceded authority to detain a person pending trial, it obviously
 is entitled to employ devices that are calculated to effectuate this detention.
 Traditionally, this has meant confinement in a facility which, no matter how
 modern or how antiquated, results in restricting the movement of a detainee in
 a manner in which he would not be restricted if he simply were free to walk
 the streets pending trial. Whether it be called a jail, a prison, or a custodial

1 n.21. Thus, no unconstitutional punishment occurs when the government imposes
2 restrictions as part of legitimate operational concerns to ensure security and order. Id. at 540.
3 However, imposition of punishment for violation of rules does require the procedural
4 protections described by the Supreme Court in Wolff v. McDonnell, 418 U.S. 539, 565-66
5 (1974). Mitchell v. Dupnik, 75 F.3d 517, 524 (9th Cir. 1996). These safeguards are:
6 (1) written notice of the charges at least twenty-four hours prior to the hearing; (2) a written
7 statement by the fact-finder as to the evidence relied on and reasons for the disciplinary
8 action; and (3) a limited right to call witnesses and present documentary evidence when it
9 would not be unduly hazardous to institutional safety or correctional goals to allow the
10 inmate to do so. Wolff, 418 U.S. at 565-66.

11 Liberty interests that entitle a *convicted inmate* to due process are “generally limited
12 to freedom from restraint which, while not exceeding the sentence in such an unexpected
13 manner as to give rise to protection by the Due Process Clause of its own force, nonetheless
14 imposes atypical and significant hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents
15 of prison life.” Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472, 484 (1995) (internal citations omitted).
16 Thus, a prisoner may challenge a disciplinary action which deprives or restrains a state-
17 created liberty interest in some “unexpected manner.” Ramirez v. Galaza, 334 F.3d 850, 860
18 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing Sandin, 515 U.S. at 483-84)). Second, a prisoner may challenge a
19 state action that does not restrain a protected liberty interest, but that “nonetheless imposes
20 atypical and significant hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison
21 life.” Sandin, 515 U.S. at 484. In analyzing whether a hardship is atypical and significant,
22 three guideposts to consider are: (1) the conditions of confinement; (2) the duration of the
23 condition and the degree of restraint imposed; and (3) whether the sanction will affect the

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25 center, the purpose of the facility is to detain. Loss of freedom of choice and
26 privacy are inherent incidents of confinement in such a facility. And the fact
27 that such detention interferes with the detainee’s understandable desire to live
28 as comfortably as possible and with as little restraint as possible during
confinement does not convert the conditions or restrictions of detention into
“punishment.”

1 duration of the prisoner's sentence. Ramirez, 334 F.3d at 861; Keenan v. Hall, 83 F.3d 1083,
2 1088-89 (9th Cir. 1996). "Atypicality" requires not merely an empirical comparison, but
3 turns on the importance of the right taken away from the prisoner. See Carlo v. City of
4 Chino, 105 F.3d 493, 499 (9th Cir. 1997); see, e.g., Sandin, 515 U.S. at 472 (30 days
5 disciplinary segregation is not atypical and significant); Torres v. Fauver, 292 F.3d 141, 151
6 (3d Cir. 2002) (4 months in administrative segregation is not atypical and significant); Griffin
7 v. Vaughn, 112 F.3d 703, 706-708 (3d Cir. 1997) (15 months administrative segregation is
8 not atypical and significant); Beverati v. Smith, 120 F.3d 500, 504 (4th Cir. 1997) (6 months
9 of confinement in especially disgusting conditions that were "more burdensome than those
10 imposed on the general prison population were not atypical ... in relation to the ordinary
11 incidents of prison life."); Jones v. Baker, 155 F.3d 810 (6th Cir. 1998) (2 years in
12 administrative segregation is not atypical and significant); Jacks v. Crabtree, 114 F.3d 983
13 (9th Cir. 1997) (denial of year sentence reduction is not an atypical and significant hardship).
14 "As long as the conditions or degree of confinement to which the prisoner is subjected is
15 within the sentence imposed upon him and is not otherwise violative of the Constitution, the
16 Due Process Clause does not in itself subject a convicted inmate's treatment by prison
17 authorities to judicial oversight." Montanye v. Haymes, 427 U.S. 236, 242 (1976).
18 Therefore, to determine whether a convicted inmate is entitled to the procedural protections
19 afforded by the Due Process Clause, the Court must look to the particular restrictions
20 imposed and ask whether they "present the type of atypical, significant deprivation in which
21 a state might conceivably create a liberty interest." Mujahid v. Meyer, 59 F.3d 931, 932 (9th
22 Cir. 1995) (quoting Sandin, 515 U.S. at 486). If a protected liberty interest was implicated,
23 a plaintiff must also have alleged the due process safeguards he was denied and by whom.
24 Wolff, 418 U.S. at 565-66.

25 Attachments to the Complaint reflect that Plaintiff was sanctioned for disobeying a
26 direct order – apparently to work – and was sanctioned with seven days in segregation and
27 removed from tent city. Plaintiff fails to allege facts to support how, when, or by whom he
28 was denied due process. To the extent that he was sanctioned while serving his criminal

1 sentence, he fails to allege an atypical and significant hardship. For these reasons, Plaintiff
2 fails to state a claim for violation of due process. For the reasons discussed, Plaintiff fails
3 to state a claim in Count III and it will be dismissed.

4 **V. Leave to Amend**

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

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

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

21 **VI. Warnings**

22 **A. Release**

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

27 / / /

28 **B. Address Changes**

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

5 **C. Copies**

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

9 **D. Possible “Strike”**

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

19 **E. Possible Dismissal**

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

24 **IT IS ORDERED:**

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

**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.