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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**  
8

9 Dustin Ray Chipley,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 Mesa Police Department, et al.,

13 Defendants.  
14

No. CV 13-715-PHX-DGC (MEA)

**ORDER**

15 Plaintiff Dustin Ray Chipley, who is confined in the Maricopa County Fourth  
16 Avenue Jail, has filed a *pro se* civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983  
17 (Doc. 1) and an Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. 2). The Court will  
18 dismiss the Complaint with leave to amend.

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

19  
20 Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* will be granted. 28 U.S.C.  
21 § 1915(a). Plaintiff must pay the statutory filing fee of \$350.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).  
22 The Court will assess an initial partial filing fee of \$8.60. The remainder of the fee will  
23 be collected monthly in payments of 20% of the previous month's income each time the  
24 amount in the account exceeds \$10.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). The Court will enter a  
25 separate Order requiring the appropriate government agency to collect and forward the  
26 fees according to the statutory formula.

**II. Statutory Screening of Prisoner Complaints**

27  
28 The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief

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

6 A pleading must contain a “short and plain statement of the claim *showing* that the  
7 pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2) (emphasis added). While Rule 8  
8 does not demand detailed factual allegations, “it demands more than an unadorned, the-  
9 defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678  
10 (2009). “Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere  
11 conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Id.*

12 “[A] complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a  
13 claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Id.* (quoting *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*,  
14 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). A claim is plausible “when the plaintiff pleads factual  
15 content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable  
16 for the misconduct alleged.” *Id.* “Determining whether a complaint states a plausible  
17 claim for relief [is] . . . a context-specific task that requires the reviewing court to draw  
18 on its judicial experience and common sense.” *Id.* at 679. Thus, although a plaintiff’s  
19 specific factual allegations may be consistent with a constitutional claim, a court must  
20 assess whether there are other “more likely explanations” for a defendant’s conduct. *Id.*  
21 at 681.

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

27 If the Court determines that a pleading could be cured by the allegation of other  
28 facts, a *pro se* litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint before dismissal

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

### 8 **III. Complaint**

9 Plaintiff names the Mesa Police Department, Mesa Police K9 Department, and  
10 Mesa Police Detective Bococks as Defendants in the Complaint. Plaintiff raises three  
11 claims for relief.

12 In Count One, Plaintiff alleges his Eighth Amendment rights were violated when,  
13 after his twin brother was killed by Gabriel Smith, Defendant Bococks failed to do “his  
14 duty as a Mesa homicide detective and charge Gabriel Smith with murder, or take any  
15 action in taking [Plaintiff’s] witness statements.”

16 In Count Two, Plaintiff claims his Fourteenth Amendment rights were violated  
17 when the Mesa Police Department refused to help him or his brother and “brought up  
18 bogus charges against [him]” after his brother’s death.

19 In Count Three, Plaintiff claims his Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights  
20 were violated when an officer released a police dog on him during his arrest. Plaintiff  
21 states that he was not resisting arrest and that the police dog caused tendon damage in his  
22 arm.

23 Plaintiff seeks disciplinary action against the individual officers and money  
24 damages.

### 25 **IV. Failure to State a Claim**

#### 26 **A. Defendants Mesa Police Department and Mesa Police K9 Department**

27 A municipality may not be sued solely because an injury was inflicted by one of  
28 its employees or agents. *Long v. County of Los Angeles*, 442 F.3d 1178, 1185 (9th Cir.

1 2006). Rather, the municipality is liable only when the execution of its policy or custom  
2 inflicts the constitutional injury. *Id.*; *Miranda v. City of Cornelius*, 429 F.3d 858, 868  
3 (9th Cir. 2005). Accordingly, a § 1983 claim against a municipal defendant “cannot  
4 succeed as a matter of law” unless the plaintiff: (1) contends that the municipal defendant  
5 maintains a policy or custom pertinent to the plaintiff’s alleged injury; and (2) explains  
6 how such policy or custom caused the plaintiff’s injury. *Sadoski v. Mosley*, 435 F.3d  
7 1076, 1080 (9th Cir. 2006) (affirming dismissal of a municipal defendant pursuant to Fed.  
8 R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6)).

9 Plaintiff has not alleged facts showing that his injuries occurred as the result of a  
10 policy or custom of the Mesa Police Department or Mesa Police K9 Department.  
11 Plaintiff has therefore failed to state a claim against these Defendants.

12 **B. Counts One and Two**

13 The Due Process Clause generally does not create an obligation on the state to  
14 protect individuals from injury to life, liberty, or property caused by the acts of private  
15 parties. *DeShaney v. Winnebago County*, 489 U.S. 189, 195-97 (1989). “The police have  
16 no affirmative obligation to investigate a crime in a particular way or to protect one  
17 citizen from another even when one citizen from another even when one citizen deprives  
18 the other of liberty or property.” *Gini v. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dept.*, 40 F.3d  
19 1041, 1045 (9th Cir. 1994) (citing *DeShaney*, 489 U.S. at 195-96). Accordingly,  
20 Plaintiff’s claims that Defendants failed to investigate his brother’s murder or to protect  
21 him or his brother fail to state a claim.

22 To the extent Plaintiff claims he was wrongfully charged, Plaintiff has also failed  
23 to state a claim. Although *pro se* pleadings are liberally construed, *Haines v. Kerner*, 404  
24 U.S. 519, 520-21 (1972), conclusory and vague allegations will not support a cause of  
25 action. *Ivey v. Board of Regents of the University of Alaska*, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir.  
26 1982). Further, a liberal interpretation of a civil rights complaint may not supply  
27 essential elements of the claim that were not initially pled. *Id.* Plaintiff has not described  
28 whether he was convicted on allegedly false charges, whether the allegedly false charges

1 were dropped, or whether he is presently in custody on those charges; Plaintiff's  
2 allegations are too vague to state a claim.

3 **C. Count Three**

4 The use of excessive force by police officers in the course of an arrest can violate  
5 the arrestee's Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable seizures. *See White*  
6 *by White v. Pierce County*, 797 F.2d 812, 816 (9th Cir. 1986). The Fourth Amendment  
7 does not prohibit the use of reasonable force. *Tatum v. City & County of San Francisco*,  
8 441 F.3d 1090, 1095 (9th Cir. 2006). Whether the force was excessive depends on  
9 "whether the officers' actions [were] 'objectively reasonable' in light of the facts and  
10 circumstances confronting them, without regard to their underlying intent or motivation."  
11 *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 397 (1989); *Tatum*, 441 F.3d at 1095; *Lolli v. County*  
12 *of Orange*, 351 F.3d 410, 415 (9th Cir. 2003). The Court must balance the nature and  
13 quality of the intrusion against the countervailing governmental interests at stake.  
14 *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 396; *Lolli*, 351 F.3d at 415. Moreover,

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

21 *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 396 (citations omitted). "Whether a particular use of force was  
22 'objectively reasonable' depends on several factors, including the severity of the crime  
23 that prompted the use of force, the threat posed by a suspect to the police or to others, and  
24 whether the suspect was resisting arrest." *Tatum*, 441 F.3d at 1095.

25 As with Plaintiff's claims in Count Two, Plaintiff's excessive force allegations are  
26 too vague to state a claim. Plaintiff fails to allege the date of his injury, to identify the  
27 officer responsible for releasing the police dog on him, or to describe the circumstances  
28 surrounding his arrest, such as the severity of the crime that prompted the use of force or  
whether Plaintiff posed a threat to officers or others. Plaintiff has therefore failed to state  
a claim in Count Three.

1     **V.     Leave to Amend**

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

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

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

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

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

3 **VI. Warnings**

4 **A. Release**

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

9 **B. Address Changes**

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

14 **C. Copies**

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

18 **D. Possible “Strike”**

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

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

**IT IS ORDERED:**

- (1) Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. 2) is **granted**.
- (2) As required by the accompanying Order to the appropriate government agency, Plaintiff must pay the \$350.00 filing fee and is assessed an initial partial filing fee of \$8.60.
- (3) The Complaint (Doc. 1) is **dismissed** for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff has **30 days** from the date this Order is filed to file a first amended complaint in compliance with this Order.
- (4) If Plaintiff fails to file an amended complaint within 30 days, the Clerk of Court must, without further notice, enter a judgment of dismissal of this action with prejudice that states that the dismissal may count as a "strike" under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).
- (5) The Clerk of Court must mail Plaintiff a court-approved form for filing a civil rights complaint by a prisoner.

Dated this 17th day of July, 2013.



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David G. Campbell  
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.

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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.

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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:

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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)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.