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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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Jonathan Michael Ploof,

) CIV-13-946-PHX-DGC (MHB)

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Plaintiff,

) **ORDER**

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vs.

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Charles L. Ryan, et al.,

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Defendants.

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On May 7, 2013, Plaintiff filed a *pro se* civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, alleging that the defendants violated his Eighth Amendment right to adequate medical care. (Doc. 1.) This matter was referred to the Early Mediation Pilot Program. (Doc. 10.) The matter was not successfully resolved via mediation, and Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint on August 19, 2013. (Doc. 18.) In his two-count First Amended Complaint, Plaintiff sued the following Defendants “in their official capacities”: Arizona Department of Corrections (ADOC) Director Charles L. Ryan, Facility Health Administrator and Contract Monitor Matthew A. Musson, Division Director and Health Services Program Evaluation Administrator Richard Pratt, and Medical Director Dr. Winfred Darryl Williams. (Id.) In both counts, Plaintiff alleges violations of his Eighth Amendment rights regarding medical care. (Id.) In his Request for Relief, he sought declaratory and injunctive relief, monetary damages, and his costs of suit and litigation expenses. (Id.)

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1 The Court screened the First Amended Complaint, dismissing Medical Director Dr.  
2 Winfred Darryl Williams and Plaintiff's request for monetary damages because the  
3 Defendants were sued in their official capacities. (Doc. 27.) The Court also found that  
4 Plaintiff's allegations in Count One were insufficient to state an official capacity claim for  
5 prospective injunctive relief. (Id.) The Court did note that an allegation that individuals  
6 failed to provide adequate healthcare to Plaintiff could possibly state an Eighth Amendment  
7 deliberate indifference claim against individuals in their personal capacity, but fell short of  
8 stating an official capacity claim. (Id.) The Court found that Plaintiff stated a claim in Count  
9 Two regarding a policy or practice of failing to provide timely access to healthcare and  
10 administrative oversight. (Id.)

11 Thereafter, prior to Defendants' appearance, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Leave to File  
12 an Amended Complaint with the proposed Second Amended Complaint attached. (Doc. 29.)  
13 Plaintiff sought to name Defendants in their official and individual capacities. (Id.)  
14 Apparently unaware of Plaintiff's Motion, Defendants filed their Answer to Plaintiff's First  
15 Amended Complaint. (Doc. 37.) On April 4, 2014, the Court granted Plaintiff's unopposed  
16 Motion for Leave to File Second Amended Complaint. (Doc. 44.) Plaintiff filed a Second  
17 Amended Complaint on May 6, 2014 (Doc. 57), and a corrected Second Amended Complaint  
18 on May 13, 2014 (Doc. 61).<sup>1</sup>

### 19 **I. Statutory Screening of Prisoner Complaints**

20 The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against  
21 a governmental entity or an officer or an employee of a governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C.  
22 § 1915A(a). The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if a plaintiff has raised  
23 claims that are legally frivolous or malicious, that fail to state a claim upon which relief may  
24 be granted, or that seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.  
25 See 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), (2).

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27 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiff corrected the Second Amended Complaint to include page 4-B that was  
28 omitted from the filing on May 6, 2014.

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

7 “[A] complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a  
8 claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” Id. (quoting Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly,  
9 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). A claim is plausible “when the plaintiff pleads factual content  
10 that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the  
11 misconduct alleged.” Id. “Determining whether a complaint states a plausible claim for  
12 relief [is] ... a context-specific task that requires the reviewing court to draw on its judicial  
13 experience and common sense.” Id. at 679. Thus, although a plaintiff’s specific factual  
14 allegations may be consistent with a constitutional claim, a court must assess whether there  
15 are other “more likely explanations” for a defendant’s conduct. See id. at 681.

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

## 21 **II. Second Amended Complaint**

22 In his two-count Second Amended Complaint, Plaintiff sues the following Defendants  
23 “in their official and or personal capacities”: Arizona Department of Corrections (ADOC)  
24 Director Charles L. Ryan, Facility Health Administrator and Contract Monitor Matthew A.  
25 Musson, and Division Director and Health Services Program Evaluation Administrator  
26 Richard Pratt. In both counts, Plaintiff alleges violations of his Eighth Amendment rights  
27 regarding medical care. In his Request for Relief, Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive  
28 relief, monetary damages, and his costs of suit and litigation expenses.

1 In Count One, Plaintiff asserts that Defendants Ryan, Musson, and Pratt have a policy  
2 and practice of failing to provide him with adequate healthcare and are deliberately  
3 indifferent to the fact that the failure to do so has resulted in significant injury to his heart.  
4 Plaintiff contends that Defendants, through written policies and personal letters, promised  
5 Plaintiff that they would provide sufficient resources to provide “the community standard of  
6 healthcare,” but that they are aware that they fall far below this standard. Plaintiff states that  
7 Defendants failed to create policy guidelines to assist clinicians in improving his healthcare  
8 and status over time. He states the current policies lack guidance allowing a healthcare  
9 provider the ability to “obtain, request, provide or arrange for the provision of ‘timely  
10 treatment.’” He asserts that the Defendants are responsible for oversight and supervision, but  
11 due to the current policy and practice have deliberately failed to provide proper supervision  
12 which “has caused extensive damage and has shortened his life.”

13 In Count Two, Plaintiff claims that Defendants Ryan, Musson, and Pratt have a policy  
14 and practice of “failing to provide administrative oversight,” which deprives him of proper  
15 and adequate medical care, and are “deliberately indifferent to the fact that the failure to do  
16 so has resulted in significant injury to [Plaintiff].” Plaintiff asserts that Defendants’ “failure  
17 to direct by policy and oversight proper medical care” has caused him to experience  
18 prolonged and unnecessary pain and suffering. Plaintiff states that unit health care providers,  
19 by policy, are required to submit a referral for “off unit” care to a review board/committee.  
20 He contends that “the referral is not for medical reasons,” it takes months for the referrals to  
21 specialists to be processed, many referrals are denied, and unit medical personnel must then  
22 either resubmit the referral or do nothing.

23 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants Ryan, Musson, and Pratt endorse a policy and  
24 practice of failing to provide timely access to health care, are deliberately indifferent to the  
25 risk of harm to Plaintiff from the failure, have failed to provide “clear processes that are  
26 adhered to,” and have allowed a “failed system with clear unreasonable delays and refusals  
27 to cause current and future heart failure.” Plaintiff contends that Defendants have failed to  
28 create an effective tracking and scheduling system for healthcare appointments, there are

1 lengthy delays in responding to health needs request forms and providing necessary care, and  
2 there are no protocols or timeframes for when he is supposed to receive a face-to-face  
3 evaluation or a medical appointment. He claims Defendants have been warned repeatedly  
4 about the unreasonable delays, which are the proximate cause of his heart damage and the  
5 continued deterioration of his heart. Plaintiff also asserts that unit medical staff has advised  
6 him that a year-long wait for cardiac care is an acceptable standard.

7 **III. Claims for Which an Answer Will be Required**

8 Liberally construed, Plaintiff has stated violations of his Eighth Amendment rights  
9 regarding medical care against Defendants Ryan, Musson, and Pratt. The Court will require  
10 Defendants to answer the Second Amended Complaint.

11 **IV. Warnings**

12 **A. Address Changes**

13 Plaintiff must file and serve a notice of a change of address in accordance with Rule  
14 83.3(d) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff must not include a motion for other  
15 relief with a notice of change of address. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this  
16 action.

17 **B. Copies**

18 Because Plaintiff is currently confined in ASPC-Eyman and this case is subject to  
19 General Order 14-08, Plaintiff is not required to serve Defendants with a copy of every  
20 document he files or to submit an additional copy of every filing for use by the Court, as  
21 would ordinarily be required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5 and Local Rule of Civil  
22 Procedure 5.4. If Plaintiff is transferred to a prison other than ASPC-Eyman, he will be  
23 notified of the requirements for service and copies for the Court that are required for inmates  
24 whose cases are not subject to General Order 14-08.

25 **C. Possible Dismissal**

26 If Plaintiff fails to timely comply with every provision of this Order, including these  
27 warnings, the Court may dismiss this action without further notice. See *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*,  
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1 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1992) (a district court may dismiss an action for failure to  
2 comply with any order of the Court).

3 **IT IS ORDERED:**

4 (1) Defendants' Motion for a Screening Order (Doc. 68) is **GRANTED**.

5 (2) Defendants Ryan, Musson, and Pratt must answer the Second Amended  
6 Complaint.

7 (3) The Clerk of Court must send Plaintiff this Order, and a copy of the Marshal's  
8 Process Receipt & Return form (USM-285) and Notice of Lawsuit & Request for Waiver of  
9 Service of Summons form for Defendants Ryan, Musson, and Pratt.

10 (4) Plaintiff must complete<sup>2</sup> and return the service packet to the Clerk of Court  
11 within 21 days of the date of filing of this Order. The United States Marshal will not provide  
12 service of process if Plaintiff fails to comply with this Order.

13 (5) If Plaintiff does not either obtain a waiver of service of the summons or  
14 complete service of the Summons and Second Amended Complaint on a Defendant within  
15 120 days of the filing of the Complaint or within 60 days of the filing of this Order,  
16 whichever is later, the action may be dismissed as to each Defendant not served. See  
17 Fed.R.Civ.P. 4(m); LRCiv 16.2(b)(2)(B)(i).

18 (6) The United States Marshal must retain the Summons, a copy of the Second  
19 Amended Complaint, and a copy of this Order for future use.

20 (7) The United States Marshal must notify Defendants of the commencement of  
21 this action and request waiver of service of the summons pursuant to Rule 4(d) of the Federal  
22 Rules of Civil Procedure. The notice to Defendants must include a copy of this Order. **The**  
23 **Marshal must immediately file signed waivers of service of the summons. If a waiver**  
24 **of service of summons is returned as undeliverable or is not returned by a Defendant**

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26 <sup>2</sup> If a Defendant is an officer or employee of the Arizona Department of Corrections,  
27 Plaintiff must list the address of the specific institution where the officer or employee works.  
28 Service cannot be effected on an officer or employee at the Central Office of the Arizona  
Department of Corrections unless the officer or employee works there.

1 **within 30 days from the date the request for waiver was sent by the Marshal, the**  
2 **Marshal must:**

3 (a) personally serve copies of the Summons, Second Amended Complaint, and this  
4 Order upon Defendant pursuant to Rule 4(e)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; and

5 (b) within 10 days after personal service is effected, file the return of service for  
6 Defendant, along with evidence of the attempt to secure a waiver of service of the summons  
7 and of the costs subsequently incurred in effecting service upon Defendant. The costs of  
8 service must be enumerated on the return of service form (USM-285) and must include the  
9 costs incurred by the Marshal for photocopying additional copies of the Summons, Second  
10 Amended Complaint, or this Order and for preparing new process receipt and return forms  
11 (USM-285), if required. Costs of service will be taxed against the personally served  
12 Defendant pursuant to Rule 4(d)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, unless otherwise  
13 ordered by the Court.

14 **(8) A Defendant who agrees to waive service of the Summons and Second**  
15 **Amended Complaint must return the signed waiver forms to the United States Marshal,**  
16 **not the Plaintiff.**

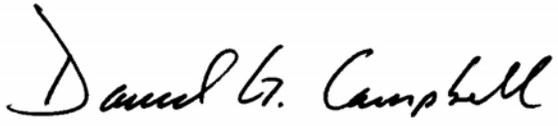
17 (9) Defendants must answer the Second Amended Complaint or otherwise respond  
18 by appropriate motion within the time provided by the applicable provisions of Rule 12(a)  
19 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

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(10) Any answer or response must state the specific Defendant by name on whose behalf it is filed. The Court may strike any answer, response, or other motion or paper that does not identify the specific Defendant by name on whose behalf it is filed.

DATED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.



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David G. Campbell  
United States District Judge