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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
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9 Jamie Denise Snyder,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 Sean Kenneth Snyder,

13 Defendant.
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No. CV-17-0428-PHX-DKD

ORDER

15 This Order addresses Plaintiff's request to proceed without the prepayment of fees
16 because of her indigency, as well as the complaint Plaintiff filed on February 10, 2017.

17 In every case where a Plaintiff seeks to file a case without the prepayment of fees
18 the Court is required to analyze plaintiff's complaint to determine whether that complaint
19 should be dismissed because it is not a case that is properly brought in federal court. 28
20 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii). Plaintiff's complaint appears to allege identity theft
21 committed by her husband. In particular, the complaint alleges that "MY HUSBAND
22 STOLE MY SOCIAL SECURITY WHILE I WAS INCARCERATED. I FILED A
23 POLICE REPORT WITH OFFICER A. LITTLE IN CHANDLER ARIZONA. THE
24 OFFICER PLCED THE REPORT AS IDENTITY THEFT / CREDIT CARD THEFT. I
25 FILED A COMPLAINT WITH SOCIAL SECURITY AND I AM HAVING TO PAY
26 BACK THE MONEY HE STOLE.FROM ME IN THE AMOUNT OF 55.00
27 DOLLARDS PER MONTH." There is however nothing in Plaintiff's complaint which
28 demonstrates the existence of federal court jurisdiction in this case. Plaintiff's demand

1 states "I WOULD LIKE THE COURT TO PUT HIM IN JAIL AND GIVE ME MY
2 MONEY BACK HE STOLE IT WHILE I WAS IN JAIL." There is no federal
3 jurisdiction for a case seeking recovery of \$1900 stolen by a private individual.
4 Moreover, there is no authority for incarceration in a civil case. This is the province of
5 law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in criminal cases.

6 Plaintiff should understand that the federal courts of the United States are courts of
7 *limited jurisdiction* and only matters that are authorized under the Constitution or laws of
8 the United States may be brought in federal court. In contrast, the state courts are courts
9 of *general jurisdiction* and thus most matters are properly heard in state courts. A case
10 alleging theft by a private individual in the amount stated in the complaint may be
11 brought in the state courts.

12 If there is federal jurisdiction for this case, Plaintiff's complaint must show that
13 this is so. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (available on-line or in any public
14 library) require that Plaintiff's complaint must contain "a short and plain statement of the
15 grounds for the court's jurisdiction." Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(1). Again,
16 federal court jurisdiction is limited to matters arising under the constitution and laws of
17 the United States (this is called "federal question jurisdiction") or cases where citizens of
18 different states are the plaintiff and defendant and the amount in controversy exceeds
19 \$75,000 (this is called "diversity jurisdiction"). If Plaintiff contends that federal question
20 jurisdiction exists, Plaintiff must specifically state which Constitutional provision or
21 federal statute confers such jurisdiction. A general or non-specific reference to the
22 Constitution or laws of the United States is insufficient.

23 To provide Plaintiff with the opportunity to allege federal court jurisdiction if
24 Plaintiff thinks it exists, the Court will grant Plaintiff leave to file an amended complaint.
25 Any amended complaint must comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a) and
26 therefore must satisfy the jurisdictional showing discussed above as well as set forth "a
27 short and plain statement of the claim showing that [Plaintiff] is entitled to relief."
28 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2). Plaintiff must take care to set forth specifically

1 which federal statute or provision of the U.S. Constitution was violated by which
2 defendant.

3 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Plaintiff shall file an amended complaint
4 complying with this Order within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this Order. The
5 Court will hold in abeyance its ruling on Plaintiff's request to proceed without the
6 prepayment of fees and costs until after it has had the opportunity to review Plaintiff's
7 amended complaint. Plaintiff is advised that failure to comply with this Order may result
8 in the dismissal of this matter.

9 Dated this 14th day of February, 2017.

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13 David K. Duncan
14 United States Magistrate Judge
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