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

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10 DEMETRIUS M. WHITE,)	No. CV 11-8152-PCT-RCB (ECV)
11 Plaintiff,)	ORDER
12 vs.)	
13 MIKE LINDERMAN, et al.,)	
14 Defendants.)	

15

16 On September 29, 2011, Plaintiff Demetrius M. White, who is confined in the
17 Arizona State Prison Complex-Douglas in Douglas, Arizona, filed a *pro se* civil rights
18 Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Doc. 1), a Motion for Appointment of Counsel
19 (Doc. 2), a Declaration (Doc. 3), a “First Set of Interrogatories” (Doc. 4), and a “First
20 Request for Production of Documents” (Doc. 5).

21 In an October 5, 2011 Order, the Court noted that Plaintiff had not paid the 350.00
22 filing fee or filed an Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*. The Court gave Plaintiff
23 30 days to either pay the filing fee or file an Application to Proceed.

24 On October 24, 2011, Plaintiff filed an Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*
25 (Doc. 8).

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

27 Plaintiff’s Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* will be granted. 28 U.S.C.
28 § 1915(a). Plaintiff must pay the statutory filing fee of \$350.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

1 The Court will assess an initial partial filing fee of \$26.19. The remainder of the fee will be
2 collected monthly in payments of 20% of the previous month's income each time the amount
3 in the account exceeds \$10.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). The Court will enter a separate
4 Order requiring the appropriate government agency to collect and forward the fees according
5 to the statutory formula.

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

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

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

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

28 But as the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has instructed, courts

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

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

14 **III. Complaint**

15 In his Complaint, Plaintiff sues the following Defendants: Arizona Department of
16 Corrections (ADOC) Director Charles Ryan, ADOC Administrator of Pastoral Activities
17 Mike Linderman, Deputy Warden E. White, and Senior Chaplain Nick Desmono.

18 Plaintiff lists two counts in his Complaint, raising claims under the First and
19 Fourteenth Amendments and 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb(1) regarding the denial of his request for
20 a Kosher diet. In his Request for Relief, Plaintiff seeks monetary damages.

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

22 To state a valid claim under § 1983, plaintiffs must allege that they suffered a specific
23 injury as a result of specific conduct of a defendant and show an affirmative link between the
24 injury and the conduct of that defendant. See Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362, 371-72, 377
25 (1976). There is no *respondeat superior* liability under § 1983, and therefore, a defendant’s
26 position as the supervisor of persons who allegedly violated Plaintiff’s constitutional rights
27 does not impose liability. Monell v. New York City Department of Social Services, 436 U.S.
28 658, 691-92 (1978); Hamilton v. Endell, 981 F.2d 1062, 1067 (9th Cir. 1992); Taylor v. List,

1 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989). “Because vicarious liability is inapplicable to Bivens
2 and § 1983 suits, a plaintiff must plead that each Government-official defendant, through the
3 official’s own individual actions, has violated the Constitution.” Iqbal, 129 S. Ct. at 1948.

4 Plaintiff has not alleged that any Defendant personally participated in a deprivation
5 of Plaintiff’s constitutional rights, was aware of a deprivation and failed to act, or formed
6 policies that resulted in Plaintiff’s injuries. Plaintiff has made no allegations against any
7 Defendant. Thus, the Court will dismiss the Complaint, without prejudice.

8 **V. Leave to Amend**

9 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff’s Complaint will be dismissed for failure to state
10 a claim upon which relief may be granted. Within 30 days, Plaintiff may submit a first
11 amended complaint to cure the deficiencies outlined above. The Clerk of Court will mail
12 Plaintiff a court-approved form to use for filing a first amended complaint. If Plaintiff fails
13 to use the court-approved form, the Court may strike the amended complaint and dismiss this
14 action without further notice to Plaintiff.¹

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

19 If Plaintiff files an amended complaint, Plaintiff must write short, plain statements
20 telling the Court: (1) the constitutional right Plaintiff believes was violated; (2) the name of
21 the Defendant who violated the right; (3) exactly what that Defendant did or failed to do;

22
23 ¹The Court notes that Plaintiff signed the Complaint under penalty of perjury and
24 submitted a separate Declaration, also under penalty of perjury, declaring that his statements
25 in the Complaint are “true to the best of [his] knowledge.” But in his Complaint, Plaintiff
26 answers “No” to the question “Have you filed any other lawsuits while you were a prisoner?”
27 This answer is false. Plaintiff filed **nine** other lawsuits in this Court, eight of which were
28 civil rights actions. All of the civil rights actions were dismissed because Plaintiff either
failed to prosecute the action, failed to comply with Court orders, sought monetary relief
against an immune defendant, or failed to state a claim upon which relief could be granted.
If Plaintiff files an amended complaint, he must **truthfully** complete the section regarding
other lawsuits he has filed while he has been a prisoner.

1 (4) how the action or inaction of that Defendant is connected to the violation of Plaintiff's
2 constitutional right; and (5) what specific injury Plaintiff suffered because of that
3 Defendant's conduct. See Rizzo, 423 U.S. at 371-72, 377.

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

9 Plaintiff should also take note that the Supreme Court declared the Religious Freedom
10 Restoration Act (RFRA), 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb - 2000bb-4, unconstitutional as applied to the
11 States. See City of Boerne v. Flores, 521 U.S. 507 (1997). Congress subsequently enacted
12 the Religious Land Use and Institutional Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA), which provides,
13 in relevant part, that “[n]o government shall impose a substantial burden on the religious
14 exercise of a person residing in or confined to an institution . . . , even if the burden results
15 from a rule of general applicability,” unless the government establishes that the burden
16 furthers “a compelling governmental interest” and does so by the “least restrictive means.”
17 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc-1(a). Under RLUIPA, the plaintiff bears the initial burden of
18 demonstrating a *prima facie* claim that the challenged state action constitutes a “substantial
19 burden on the exercise of his religious beliefs.” Warsoldier v. Woodford, 418 F.3d 989, 994
20 (9th Cir. 2005)

21 A first amended complaint supersedes the original complaint. Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963
22 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992); Hal Roach Studios v. Richard Feiner & Co., 896 F.2d 1542,
23 1546 (9th Cir. 1990). After amendment, the Court will treat an original complaint as
24 nonexistent. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262. Any cause of action that was raised in the original
25 complaint is waived if it is not raised in a first amended complaint. King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d
26 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

27 **VI. Motion for Appointment of Counsel**

28 There is no constitutional right to the appointment of counsel in a civil case. See Ivey

1 v. Board of Regents of the University of Alaska, 673 F.2d 266, 269 (9th Cir. 1982). In
2 proceedings *in forma pauperis*, the court may request an attorney to represent any person
3 unable to afford one. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). Appointment of counsel under 28 U.S.C.
4 § 1915(e)(1) is required only when “exceptional circumstances” are present. Terrell v.
5 Brewer, 935 F.2d 1015, 1017 (9th Cir. 1991). A determination with respect to exceptional
6 circumstances requires an evaluation of the likelihood of success on the merits as well as the
7 ability of Plaintiff to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issue
8 involved. Id. “Neither of these factors is dispositive and both must be viewed together
9 before reaching a decision.” Id. (quoting Wilborn v. Escalderon, 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th
10 Cir. 1986)).

11 Having considered both elements, it does not appear at this time that exceptional
12 circumstances are present that would require the appointment of counsel in this case.
13 Plaintiff is in no different position than many *pro se* prisoner litigants. Thus, the Court will
14 deny without prejudice Plaintiff’s Motion for Appointment of Counsel.

15 **VII. Discovery**

16 Plaintiff’s Interrogatories and Request for Production are premature. The Court has
17 dismissed Plaintiff’s Complaint. If Plaintiff files an amended complaint, and the Court
18 determines that an answer is required, the Court will direct the Clerk of Court to send
19 Plaintiff a service packet containing summonses and request for waiver forms for Plaintiff
20 to complete and return to the Court. If Plaintiff returns those forms to the Court, the Court
21 will direct the United States Marshal to notify the Defendants of the commencement of the
22 action, request waiver of service of the summonses, and serve Defendants if they do not
23 waive service. The Court will issue a scheduling order setting discovery deadlines *after*
24 Defendants have answered the amended complaint. Defendants, therefore, are not required
25 at this time to respond to Plaintiff’s discovery requests.

26 **VIII. Warnings**

27 **A. Release**

28 Plaintiff must pay the unpaid balance of the filing fee within 120 days of his release.

1 Also, within 30 days of his release, he must either (1) notify the Court that he intends to pay
2 the balance or (2) show good cause, in writing, why he cannot. Failure to comply may result
3 in dismissal of this action.

4 **B. Address Changes**

5 Plaintiff must file and serve a notice of a change of address in accordance with Rule
6 83.3(d) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff must not include a motion for other
7 relief with a notice of change of address. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this
8 action.

9 **C. Copies**

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

13 **D. Possible “Strike”**

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

23 **E. Possible Dismissal**

24 If Plaintiff fails to timely comply with every provision of this Order, including these
25 warnings, the Court may dismiss this action without further notice. See Ferdik, 963 F.2d at
26 1260-61 (a district court may dismiss an action for failure to comply with any order of the
27 Court).

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1 **IT IS ORDERED:**

2 (1) Plaintiff's Motion for Appointment of Counsel (Doc. 2) is **denied without**
3 **prejudice.**

4 (2) Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. 8) is **granted.**


5 (3) As required by the accompanying Order to the appropriate government agency,
6 Plaintiff must pay the \$350.00 filing fee and is assessed an initial partial filing fee of \$26.19.

7 (4) The Complaint (Doc. 1) is **dismissed** for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff has
8 **30 days** from the date this Order is filed to file a first amended complaint in compliance with
9 this Order.

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

13 (6) The Clerk of Court must mail Plaintiff a court-approved form for filing a civil
14 rights complaint by a prisoner.

15 DATED this 28th day of October, 2011.

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20 Robert C. Broomfield
21 Senior United States District Judge
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