9 Raymond Wright,
10 Plaintiff,
11 vs.
12 G. Shapirshteyn, et al.,
13 Defendants.

No. CV 1-06-0927-MHM
ORDER

Plaintiff Raymond Wright, who is confined in the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Corcoran, California, filed a *pro se* civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Doc. # 1). Before the Court screened the Complaint, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint (Doc. # 15). This case was reassigned to the undersigned judge on November 25, 2008 (Doc. # 16). The Court will dismiss the First Amended Complaint with leave to amend.

I. Statutory Screening of Prisoner Complaints

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

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allegation of other facts, a *pro se* litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint before dismissal of the action. See Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127-29 (9th Cir. 2000) (*en banc*).

The Court should not, however, advise the litigant how to cure the defects. This type of advice "would undermine district judges' role as impartial decisionmakers." <u>Pliler v. Ford, 542 U.S. 225, 231 (2004)</u>; <u>see also Lopez, 203 F.3d at 1131 n.13 (declining to decide whether the court was required to inform a litigant of deficiencies)</u>. Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint will be dismissed with leave to amend because the Second Amended Complaint may possibly be saved by amendment.

II. First Amended Complaint

With regard to his First Amended Complaint, Plaintiff should take note that an amended complaint supersedes the original complaint. Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992); Hal Roach Studios v. Richard Feiner & Co., 896 F.2d 1542, 1546 (9th Cir. 1990). After amendment, the Court treats the original complaint as nonexistent. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262. Any cause of action that was raised in the original complaint is waived if it is not raised in an amended complaint. King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987). Thus, the Court will considers only the claims specifically asserted in Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint with respect to only those Defendants specifically identified in the amended pleading. In his single-count First Amended Complaint, Plaintiff sues the following Defendants: (1) Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP) Senior Psychologist Supervisor G. Shapirshteyn; (2) PVSP Chief Medical Officer C. Barber; (3) PVSP Psychologist T. Gonzalez; (4) Wasco State Prison (WSP) Associate Warden Robles; (5) WSP Correctional Counselor Mearshmarsal; (6) WSP Psychiatric Social Worker Lartique; (7) California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Acting Director Scott Kernan; (8) CDCR Facility Captain Hodges-Wilkins; and (9) CDCR Chief Inmate Appeals Coordinator Grannis.

Plaintiff's claim is based on a statement of facts in which Plaintiff alleges that Lartique violated Plaintiff's Fourteenth Amendment Due Process rights by placing defamatory and false information in his medical records. Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that Lartique has met the stigma-plus standard by stating that Plaintiff "masked depression, . . . kept an unkempt cell, [has] OCD traits, anxiety, poor self control, [is] nervous, [and] committed indecent exposure offenses while incarcerated" (Doc. # 15 at 3-4). Plaintiff further alleges that Lartique placed the documents into the mental health section of his heath record without Plaintiff's knowledge. Plaintiff claims that he discovered this information in April 2005. Plaintiff also alleges that Robles and Mearshmarsal violated Plaintiff's due process rights by submitting a staff referral request for Plaintiff to receive mental health services.

With respect to Gonzalez, Shapirsteyn, and Barber, Plaintiff claims that they violated his due process rights when they failed to remove this information from his health record. Finally, Plaintiff claims that Keanan, Hodges-Wilkins, and Grannis also violated his due process rights when they failed to take action to remove the false information in response to Plaintiff's grievance.

Plaintiff seeks damages in the amount of 7 million dollars and an injunction requiring Defendants to remove the false information from Plaintiff's health record.

III. Dismissal of Due Process Claim

Although *pro se* pleadings are liberally construed, <u>Haines v. Kerner</u>, 404 U.S. 519, 520-21 (1972), conclusory and vague allegations will not support a cause of action. <u>Ivey v. Board of Regents of the University of Alaska</u>, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir. 1982). Further, a liberal interpretation of a civil rights complaint may not supply essential elements of the claim that were not initially pled. <u>Id</u>.

Both slander and libel concern damage to reputation. An action for damage to reputation ordinarily "lies . . . in the tort of defamation, not in [42 U.S.C. §] 1983." <u>Fleming v. Dep't of Public Safety</u>, 837 F.2d 401, 409 (9th Cir. 1988). "To recover damages for defamation under § 1983, a plaintiff must satisfy the 'stigma-plus test.'. . . Under that test, 'a plaintiff must allege loss of a recognizable property or liberty interest in conjunction with the allegation of injury to reputation." <u>American Consumer Pub. Ass'n, Inc. v. Margosian</u>, 349

F.3d 1122, 1125-26 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting <u>Cooper v. Dupnik</u>, 924 F.2d 1520, 1532 (9th Cir. 1991), <u>rev'd on other grounds</u>, 963 F.2d 1220, 1235 n.6 (9th Cir. 1992) (*en banc*)). "There are two ways to state a cognizable § 1983 claim for defamation-plus: (1) allege that the injury to reputation was *inflicted in connection* with a federally protected right, or (2) allege that the injury to reputation *caused the denial* of a federally protected right." <u>Herb Hallman Chevrolet</u>, Inc. v. Nash-Holmes, 169 F.3d 636, 645 (9th Cir. 1999); <u>see Paul v. Davis</u>, 424 U.S. 693, 703 (1976).

Plaintiff has alleged nothing more than his belief that his reputation may be damaged by the presence of allegedly false information in his health record. But injury to reputation alone does not result in a deprivation of a liberty or a property interest protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. <u>Paul</u>, 424 U.S. at 703. Consequently, the Court will dismiss this claim with leave to amend.

IV. Dismissal of Defendants

Plaintiff also claims that Gonzalez, Shapirshteyn, Barber, Keanan, Hodges-Wilkins, and Grannis violated Plaintiff's due process rights when they failed to remove the false information from Plaintiff's health record in response to his grievances. But where a defendant's only involvement in the allegedly unconstitutional conduct is the denial of administrative grievances, the failure to intervene on a prisoner's behalf to remedy alleged unconstitutional behavior does not amount to active unconstitutional behavior for purposes of § 1983. Shehee v. Luttrell, 199 F.3d 295, 300 (6th Cir.1999). As a result, Gonzalez, Shapirshteyn, Barber, Keanan, Hodges-Wilkins, and Grannis are also dismissed.

V. Leave to Amend

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint will be dismissed. Within 30 days, Plaintiff may submit a second amended complaint on the form provided with this Order. If Plaintiff fails to use the form provided with this Order, the Court may strike the second amended complaint and dismiss this action without further notice to Plaintiff.

Plaintiff must clearly designate on the face of the document that it is the "Second Amended Complaint." The second amended complaint must be retyped or rewritten in its

entirety on the form provided with this Order and may not incorporate any part of the original Complaint or the First Amended Complaint by reference.

Plaintiff must comply with the instructions provided with the form. Plaintiff should pay close attention to the instructions provided with the form. If Plaintiff fails to comply with the instructions provided with the form, the Court may strike the second amended complaint and dismiss this action without further notice to Plaintiff.

Among other requirements contained in the instructions, Plaintiff must provide information in the second amended complaint regarding the Court's jurisdiction and the defendants, and he must divide his lawsuit into separate counts. In each count, Plaintiff must identify the federal constitutional civil right allegedly violated, check the box for the issue most closely involved, state how each defendant participated in the alleged violation at issue, explain how Plaintiff was injured by the alleged violation, and mark whether Plaintiff exhausted any available administrative remedies. Plaintiff must repeat this process for each civil rights claim. **Plaintiff may allege only one claim per count.**

A second amended complaint supersedes the original Complaint and the First Amended Complaint. Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992); Hal Roach Studios v. Richard Feiner & Co., 896 F.2d 1542, 1546 (9th Cir. 1990). After amendment, the Court will treat the original Complaint and the First Amended Complaint as nonexistent. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262. Any cause of action that was raised in the original Complaint and the First Amended Complaint is waived if it is not raised in a second amended complaint. King, 814 F.2d at 567.¹

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¹ The Court also reminds Plaintiff that pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8, it is inappropriate to attach exhibits to a complaint. The Court cannot serve as a repository for parties' evidence. If Plaintiff elects to file a second amended complaint he must refrain from attaching any exhibits as the submission of evidence is premature.

VI. Warnings

A. Address Changes

Plaintiff must file and serve a notice of a change of address in accordance with Rule 83-182(f) and 83-183(b) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff must not include a motion for other relief with a notice of change of address. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this action.

B. Copies

Plaintiff must submit an additional copy of every filing for use by the Court. <u>See</u> LRCiv 5-133(d)(2). Failure to comply may result in the filing being stricken without further notice to Plaintiff.

C. 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) The First Amended Complaint (Doc. # 15) is **dismissed** for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff has **30 days** from the date this Order is filed to file a second amended complaint in compliance with this Order.
- (2) If Plaintiff fails to file a second amended complaint within 30 days, the Clerk of Court must, without further notice, enter a judgment of dismissal of this action with prejudice.
- (3) The Clerk of Court must include with this Order a copy of this judge's required form for filing a civil rights complaint by a prisoner.

DATED this 12th day of February, 2009.

Mary H. Murgua

Instructions for a Prisoner Filing a Civil Rights Complaint in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California

- 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. 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. <u>Your Signature</u>. 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. <u>The Filing Fee</u>. 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. <u>Original and Judge's Copy</u>. 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. <u>Change of Address</u>. 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.**
- 7. <u>Certificate of Service</u>. 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. <u>See</u> 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 hereb	y certify that a copy of the fo	regoing document was mailed
this	(month, d	ay, year) to:
Name:		
Addres	ss:	
	Attorney for Defendant(s)	
		-
(Signat	ture)	

- 8. <u>Amended Complaint</u>. 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. <u>See</u> 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. In addition, an amended complaint may not incorporate by reference any part of your prior complaint. **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.
- 9. <u>Exhibits</u>. 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.
- 10. <u>Letters and Motions</u>. 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.
- 11. Completing the Civil Rights Complaint Form.

HEADING:

- 1. <u>Your Name</u>. Print your name, prison or inmate number, and institutional mailing address on the lines provided.
- 2. <u>Defendants</u>. 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. <u>Jury Demand</u>. 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. <u>Nature of Suit</u>. Mark whether you are filing the complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for state, county, or city defendants; "<u>Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents</u>" for

federal defendants; or "other." If you mark "other," identify the source of that authority.

- 2. <u>Location</u>. Identify the institution and city where the alleged violation of your rights occurred.
- 3. <u>Defendants</u>. 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. <u>Counts</u>. You must identify which civil right was violated. **You may allege the violation of only one civil right per count**.
- 2. <u>Issue Involved</u>. 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. <u>Supporting Facts</u>. 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. <u>Injury</u>. State precisely how you were injured by the alleged violation of your rights.
- 5. <u>Administrative Remedies</u>. You must exhaust any available administrative remedies before you file a civil rights complaint. <u>See</u> 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.

ame and Prisoner/Booking Number	
lace of Confinement	<u></u>
ailing Address	
	<u> </u>
ity, State, Zip Code	
Failure to notify the Court of your change of address may re	esult in dismissal of this action.)
	TATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE EASTERN	DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
)
Full Name of Plaintiff) Plaintiff,	_,)
i idilitii,)
vs.	CASE NO.
) (To be supplied by the Clerk)
L) ull Name of Defendant)	_,)
2)	_, ′)
-) CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT
3)	_,) BY A PRISONER
4)	_,)
Defendant(s).) First Amended Complaint
Check if there are additional Defendants and attach page 1-A listing them.)
A II I	RISDICTION
A. JU	
. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pur	
☐ 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a); 42 U.S.C. § 1983	
	own Federal Narcotics Agents, 403 U.S. 388 (1971).
Other:	
Institution/city where violation occurred:	
INSTITUTION/CITY WHERE VIOLATION OCCURRED.	

Revised 12/1/08 1 550/555

B. DEFENDANTS

1.		. The first Defendant is employed as:		
	(Position and Title)	(Institution)		
2.				
	(Position and Title)	(Institution)		
3.	-	·		
	(Position and Title)	(Institution)		
4.				
	(Position and Title)	(Institution)		
If y	you name more than four Defendants, answer the questions listed above	for each additional Defendant on a separate page.		
	C. PREVIOUS LAW	SUITS		
1.	Have you filed any other lawsuits while you were a prisone	er?		
2.	If yes, how many lawsuits have you filed? Describe the previous lawsuits:			
	 a. First prior lawsuit: Parties:	,		
	 b. Second prior lawsuit: 1. Parties:	ed? Is it still pending?)		
	c. Third prior lawsuit: 1. Parties:			

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.	Sta	te the constitutional or other fe	ederal civil right that	was violated:	
2.	Count I. Identify the issue involved. Check only one. State additional issues in separate counts.				
		Basic necessities	☐ Mail	\square Access to the court	☐ Medical care
		Disciplinary proceedings		=	
		Excessive force by an officer	☐ Threat to safety	Other:	·
	fenda	pporting Facts. State as brieflant did or did not do that violate y or arguments.			
4.	Inj	ury. State how you were injur	red 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?				
	b.	Did you submit a request for	· administrativa ralia	f on Count I?	☐ Yes ☐ No
	о. с.	Did you appeal your request			☐ Yes ☐ No
	d.	If you did not submit or appedid not.	eal a request for adm	inistrative relief at any level	— · · · — - · · ·

COUNT II

State the constitutional or other federal civil right that was violated:					
2.		Basic necessities Disciplinary proceedings Excessive force by an officer	☐ Mail ☐ Property	☐ Access to the court ☐ Exercise of religion	☐ Medical care ☐ Retaliation
	fenda	apporting Facts. State as briefly as lant did or did not do that violated y ty or arguments.	_		•
4.	Inj	jury. State how you were injured	by the actions or	inactions of the Defendan	t(s).
5.	Ad a.	dministrative Remedies. Are there any administrative reminstitution?	nedies (grievance p	procedures or administrativ	ve appeals) available at your ☐ Yes ☐ No
	b. c. d.	Did you submit a request for ad Did you appeal your request for If you did not submit or appeal did not.	relief on Count I a request for adm	I to the highest level? inistrative relief at any lev	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No

COUNT III

1.	Sta	e the constitutional or other federal civil right that was violated:			
2.		ant III. 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: □			
	fenda	oporting Facts. State as briefly as possible the FACTS supporting Count III. Describe exactly what each nt did or did not do that violated your rights. State the facts clearly in your own words without citing legal or arguments.			
4.	Inj	Iry. 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?				
	b. c. d.	Did you submit a request for administrative relief on Count III? Did you appeal your request for relief on Count III to the highest level? 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 i	s true and correct.
Executed on	
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.