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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RYAN J. DUERST,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
PLACER COURT, ET AL.,  
Defendants.

No. 2:14-cv-1774 GEB AC PS

ORDER

Plaintiff, proceeding in this action pro se, has requested authority pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 to proceed in forma pauperis. This proceeding was referred to this court by Local Rule 72-302(c)(21). Plaintiff has submitted the affidavit required by § 1915(a) showing that plaintiff is unable to prepay fees and costs or give security for them. Accordingly, the request to proceed in forma pauperis will be granted. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a).

The federal in forma pauperis statute authorizes federal courts to dismiss a case if the action is legally “frivolous or malicious,” fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2).

A claim is legally frivolous when it lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact. Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); Franklin v. Murphy, 745 F.2d 1221, 1227-28 (9th Cir. 1984). The court may, therefore, dismiss a claim as frivolous where it is based on an

1 indisputably meritless legal theory or where the factual contentions are clearly baseless. Neitzke,  
2 490 U.S. at 327.

3 A complaint, or portion thereof, should only be dismissed for failure to state a claim upon  
4 which relief may be granted if it appears beyond doubt that plaintiff can prove no set of facts in  
5 support of the claim or claims that would entitle him to relief. Hishon v. King & Spalding, 467  
6 U.S. 69, 73 (1984) (citing Conley v. Gibson, 355 U.S. 41, 45-46 (1957)); Palmer v. Roosevelt  
7 Lake Log Owners Ass'n, 651 F.2d 1289, 1294 (9th Cir. 1981). In reviewing a complaint under  
8 this standard, the court must accept as true the allegations of the complaint in question, Hospital  
9 Bldg. Co. v. Rex Hosp. Trustees, 425 U.S. 738, 740 (1976), construe the pleading in the light  
10 most favorable to the plaintiff, and resolve all doubts in the plaintiff's favor, Jenkins v.  
11 McKeithen, 395 U.S. 411, 421 (1969).

12 The court finds the allegations in plaintiff's complaint so vague and conclusory that it is  
13 unable to determine whether the current action is frivolous or fails to state a claim for relief. The  
14 court has determined that the complaint does not contain a short and plain statement as required  
15 by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2). Although the Federal Rules adopt a flexible pleading  
16 policy, a complaint must give fair notice and state the elements of the claim plainly and  
17 succinctly. Jones v. Community Redev. Agency, 733 F.2d 646, 649 (9th Cir. 1984). Plaintiff  
18 must allege with at least some degree of particularity overt acts which defendants engaged in that  
19 support plaintiff's claim. Id. Because plaintiff has failed to comply with the requirements of  
20 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2), the complaint must be dismissed. The court will,  
21 however, grant leave to file an amended complaint.

22 If plaintiff chooses to amend the complaint, plaintiff must set forth the jurisdictional  
23 grounds upon which the court's jurisdiction depends. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). Further, plaintiff must  
24 demonstrate how the conduct complained of has resulted in a deprivation of plaintiff's federal  
25 rights. See Ellis v. Cassidy, 625 F.2d 227 (9th Cir. 1980). The complaint must allege in specific  
26 terms how each named defendant is involved. There can be no liability under § 1983 unless there  
27 is some affirmative link between a defendant's actions and the claimed deprivation. Rizzo v.  
28 Goode, 423 U.S. 362 (9176); May v. Enomoto, 633 F.2d 164, 167 (9th Cir. 1980); Johnson v.

1 Duffy, 588 F.2d 740, 743 (9th Cir. 1978).

2 In addition, plaintiff is informed that the court cannot refer to a prior pleading in order to  
3 make plaintiff's amended complaint complete. Local Rule 15-220 requires that an amended  
4 complaint be complete in itself without reference to any prior pleading. This is because, as a  
5 general rule, an amended complaint supersedes the original complaint. See Loux v. Rhay, 375  
6 F.2d 55, 57 (9th Cir. 1967). Once plaintiff files an amended complaint, the original pleading no  
7 longer serves any function in the case. Therefore, in an amended complaint, as in an original  
8 complaint, each claim and the involvement of each defendant must be sufficiently alleged.

9 In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

10 1. Plaintiff's application to proceed in forma pauperis (ECF No. 2) is granted;

11 2. Plaintiff's complaint is dismissed;

12 3. Plaintiff is granted thirty days from the date of service of this order to file an amended  
13 complaint that complies with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the  
14 Local Rules of Practice; the amended complaint must bear the docket number assigned this case  
15 and must be labeled "Amended Complaint"; plaintiff must file an original and two copies of the  
16 amended complaint; failure to file an amended complaint in accordance with this order will result  
17 in a recommendation that this action be dismissed; and

18 4. As it is unclear at this time on what claims and against which defendants plaintiff may  
19 proceed, his July 28, 2014 motion to stay (ECF No. 3) and August 18, 2014 motion for temporary  
20 restraining order (ECF No. 4) are denied without prejudice.

21 DATED: August 18, 2014

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23 ALLISON CLAIRE  
24 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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