

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

FILED
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DENVER, COLORADO

MAR 30 2011

GREGORY C. LANGHAM
CLERK

Civil Action No. 11-cv-00581-BNB

WYATT T. HANDY JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

SGT. CUMMINGS, Individually & Official Capacity,
DEP. WENDELBURY, Individually,
DEP. THAO, Individually,
DEP. LIGON, Individually,
DEP. ELLEDGE, Individually,
DEP. GIRARD, Individually,
MRS. GRETCHEN, Individually & Official Capacity,
T. WARD #09027, Individually & Official Capacity,

Defendants.

ORDER DIRECTING PLAINTIFF TO FILE
AN AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Wyatt T. Handy Jr., currently is detained at the Arapahoe County Jail in Centennial, Colorado. Mr. Handy, acting *pro se*, has filed a Prisoner Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1343 and 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging that his rights under the United States Constitution have been violated. The Court must construe the Complaint liberally because Mr. Handy is not represented by an attorney. See *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520-21 (1972); *Hall v. Bellmon*, 935 F.2d 1106, 1110 (10th Cir. 1991). The Court, however, should not act as a *pro se* litigant's advocate. See *Hall*, 935 F.2d

at 1110. For the reasons stated below, Mr. Handy will be ordered to file an Amended Complaint.

The Court finds that the Complaint does not comply with the pleading requirements of Rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The twin purposes of a complaint are to give the opposing parties fair notice of the basis for the claims against them so that they may respond and to allow the court to conclude that the allegations, if proven, show that the plaintiff is entitled to relief. See *Monument Builders of Greater Kansas City, Inc. v. American Cemetery Ass'n of Kansas*, 891 F.2d 1473, 1480 (10th Cir. 1989). The requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 8 are designed to meet these purposes. See *TV Communications Network, Inc. v. ESPN, Inc.*, 767 F. Supp. 1062, 1069 (D. Colo. 1991), *aff'd*, 964 F.2d 1022 (10th Cir. 1992). Specifically, Rule 8(a) provides that a complaint “must contain: (1) a short and plain statement of the grounds for the court’s jurisdiction, . . . (2) a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and (3) a demand for the relief sought” The philosophy of Rule 8(a) is reinforced by Rule 8(d)(1), which provides that “[e]ach allegation must be simple, concise, and direct.” Taken together, Rules 8(a) and (d)(1) underscore the emphasis placed on clarity and brevity by the federal pleading rules. Prolix pleadings violate the requirements of Rule 8.

Mr. Handy fails to set forth a short and plain statement of his claims showing that he is entitled to relief. Mr. Handy’s Complaint is seventy-three pages long and states his claims in a narrative chronological format, rather than in a short and concise statement. The Court, therefore, will direct Mr. Handy to file an Amended Complaint that complies with the pleading requirements of Rule 8. Mr. Handy is reminded that it is

his responsibility to present his claims in a manageable format that allows the Court and Defendants to know what claims are being asserted and to be able to respond to those claims.

Mr. Handy also is reminded that he must name the proper parties who are responsible for violating his constitutional rights and assert each defendant's personal participation in the alleged constitutional violations. Personal participation is an essential allegation in a civil rights action. See *Bennett v. Passic*, 545 F.2d 1260, 1262-63 (10th Cir. 1976). To establish personal participation, Mr. Handy must show that each defendant caused the deprivation of a federal right. See *Kentucky v. Graham*, 473 U.S. 159, 166 (1985). There must be an affirmative link between the alleged constitutional violation and each defendant's participation, control or direction, or failure to supervise. See *Butler v. City of Norman*, 992 F.2d 1053, 1055 (10th Cir. 1993). A named defendant may not be held liable merely because of his or her supervisory position. See *Pembaur v. City of Cincinnati*, 475 U.S. 469, 479 (1986); *McKee v. Heggy*, 703 F.2d 479, 483 (10th Cir. 1983).

Mr. Handy further is instructed that "to state a claim in federal court, a complaint must explain what each defendant did to him []; when the defendant did it; how the defendant's action harmed him []; and, what specific legal right the plaintiff believes the defendant violated." *Nasious v. Two Unknown B.I.C.E. Agents*, 492 F.3d 1158, 1163 (10th Cir. 2007). Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that Mr. Handy file an Amended Complaint as instructed above, **within thirty days from the date of this Order.** It is

FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court mail to Mr. Handy, together with a copy of this Order, two copies of the Court-approved form used in filing prisoner complaints. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that if Mr. Handy fails to properly amend the Complaint, **within thirty days from the date of this Order**, the Complaint and action shall be subject to dismissal without further notice.

DATED March 30, 2011, at Denver, Colorado.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Boyd N. Boland
United States Magistrate Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Civil Action No. 11-cv-00581-BNB

Wyatt T. Handy, Jr.
Prisoner No. 1006451
Arapahoe County Det. Facility
PO Box 4918
Centennial, CO 80155-4918

I hereby certify that I have mailed a copy of the **ORDER and two copies of the Prisoner Complaint form** to the above-named individuals on March 30, 2011.

GREGORY C. LANGHAM, CLERK

By: 

Deputy Clerk