

state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or that seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(e\)\(2\)\(B\)](#).

A pro se plaintiff must set forth enough factual allegations to “nudge[] their claims across the line from conceivable to plausible,” or “their complaint must be dismissed” for failing to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. [Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly](#), [550 U.S. 544, 569-70 \(2007\)](#); see also [Ashcroft v. Iqbal](#), [129 S. Ct. 1937, 1950 \(2009\)](#), (“A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.”). Regardless of whether a plaintiff is represented or is appearing pro se, the plaintiff’s complaint must allege specific facts sufficient to state a claim. See [Martin v. Sargent](#), [780 F.2d 1334, 1337 \(8th Cir. 1985\)](#). However, a pro se plaintiff’s allegations must be construed liberally. [Burke v. North Dakota Dep’t of Corr. & Rehab.](#), [294 F.3d 1043, 1043-44 \(8th Cir. 2002\)](#), (citations omitted).

Liberally construed, Plaintiff here alleges federal constitutional claims. To state a claim under [42 U.S.C. § 1983](#), a plaintiff must allege a violation of rights protected by the United States Constitution or created by federal statute and also must show that the alleged deprivation was caused by conduct of a person acting under color of state law. [West v. Atkins](#), [487 U.S. 42, 48 \(1988\)](#); [Buckley v. Barlow](#), [997 F.2d 494, 495 \(8th Cir. 1993\)](#).

III. DISCUSSION OF CLAIMS

Claims relating to the validity of an individual’s conviction or incarceration may not be brought in a civil rights case, regardless of the relief sought. As set forth by the

Supreme Court in [Preiser v. Rodriguez, 411 U.S. 475 \(1973\)](#), and [Heck v. Humphrey, 512 U.S. 477 \(1994\)](#), if success on the merits of a civil rights claim would necessarily implicate the validity of a prisoner's conviction or continued confinement, the civil rights claim must be preceded by a favorable outcome in a habeas corpus or similar proceeding in a state or federal forum. Absent such a favorable disposition of the charges or conviction, a plaintiff may not use [42 U.S.C. § 1983](#) to cast doubt on the legality of his conviction or confinement. See [Heck, 512 U.S. at 486-87](#); see also [Smith v. Holtz, 87 F.3d 108, 113 \(3d Cir. 1996\)](#) (applying *Heck* to a claim that would implicate the validity of a future conviction on a pending criminal charge).

As discussed above, Plaintiff's allegations are nearly impossible to decipher. To the extent that Plaintiff seeks to challenge a state court conviction, he must do so in a habeas corpus or similar proceeding. To the extent that Plaintiff's state court proceeding is still ongoing, this court will abstain from exercising jurisdiction over his claims. Indeed, this court is mindful of its obligation to promote comity between state and federal judicial bodies and will "abstain from exercising jurisdiction in cases where equitable relief would interfere with pending state proceedings." [Aaron v. Target Corp., 357 F.3d 768, 774 \(8th Cir. 2004\)](#). Courts use the doctrine developed in *Younger v. Harris* to carry out this policy. [401 U.S. 37 \(1971\)](#). Under *Younger*, a federal court should abstain from jurisdiction "when (1) there is an ongoing state judicial proceeding which (2) implicates important state interests, and when (3) that proceeding affords an adequate opportunity to raise the federal questions presented." [Norwood v. Dickey, 409 F.3d 901, 903 \(8th Cir. 2005\)](#), (quoting [Fuller v. Ulland, 76 F.3d 957, 959 \(8th Cir. 1996\)](#)). Here, Plaintiff has not alleged, nor demonstrated,

that the Nebraska Supreme Court proceedings will not provide him with the opportunity to raise any potential constitutional claim.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted and is dismissed without prejudice pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(e\)\(2\)](#); and
2. A separate judgment will be entered in accordance with this Memorandum and Order.

DATED this 19th day of September, 2012.

BY THE COURT:

s/Laurie Smith Camp
Chief United States District Judge

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