

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

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FRANK PECK,

Plaintiff,

vs.

STATE OF NEVADA, et al.,

Defendants.

2:18-cv-00237-APG-VCF

**ORDER**

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT [ECF No. 40]

Before the Court is Plaintiff Frank Peck’s First Amended Complaint. (ECF No. 40). For the reasons discussed below, Plaintiff may proceed in this action. The First Amended Complaint, as limited by this Order and the Court’s previous screening Order (ECF No. 6), is the operative complaint.

**BACKGROUND**

Plaintiff Frank Peck’s original complaint was screened and filed on July 5, 2018. (ECF Nos. 6, 7). The complaint listed six counts against 17 Defendants. (ECF No. 7). The Court held that Plaintiff could proceed on the following claims:

1. All portions of Count I alleging denial of access to the courts due to the restrictions in AR 740, access to public records, refusal to copy evidence, training staff fraudulently defeating Peck’s attempts at exhaustion of his claims, and reduction in law library time;
2. The portions of Count II alleging due process violations for disciplinary hearings based on false statements by the Defendants and alleging retaliation;
3. Count III alleging denial of access to the courts;
4. All portions of Count V alleging an equal protection violation and alleging an Eighth Amendment violation; and
5. Count VI alleging denial of the right of access to the courts.

(ECF No. 6 at 23-25). The Court dismissed the following Defendants and claims with prejudice:

- 1 1. Defendants State of Nevada ex rel., the Nevada Department of Corrections, the Board of Prison  
2 Commissioners, and Judge Wiese;
- 3 2. The portions of Count II alleging a due process violation regarding implementing level  
4 classifications pursuant to AR 516, prison transfers from 2009-2010, and Peck's listed  
5 grievances; and
- 6 3. Count IV.

7 (Id.).

8 Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint on January 31, 2019. (ECF No. 40). The First Amended  
9 Complaint copies the entirety of the original complaint. (Compare ECF No. 7 with ECF No. 40 at 1-6, 8-  
10 18, 23-25). The First Amended Complaint adds three Defendants: Correctional Officer Moca, Associate  
11 Warden Hubbard Pickett, and Correctional Officer Alvarez. (ECF No. 40 at 7). It also adds Counts VII-  
12 X for deliberate indifference to medical needs, equal protection, and due process. (Id. at 19-22). On  
13 March 22, 2019, the Court granted Defendants' motion to screen the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.  
14 (ECF No. 60).

### 15 ANALYSIS

16 Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the Court shall screen “a complaint in a civil action in which a prisoner  
17 seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity” and dismiss  
18 any portion that “is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted;  
19 or...seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.” Dismissal of a complaint  
20 for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted is provided for in Federal Rule of Civil  
21 Procedure 12(b)(6), and the court applies the same standard under § 1915 when reviewing the adequacy  
22 of a complaint or an amended complaint. When a court dismisses a complaint under § 1915(e), the  
23 plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with directions as to curing its deficiencies, unless  
24 it is clear from the face of the complaint that the deficiencies could not be cured by amendment. *Cato v.*  
25

1 United States, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995). Allegations of a pro se complainant are held to less  
2 stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers. Hughes v. Rowe, 449 U.S. 5, 9 (1980).  
3 While the standard under Rule 12(b)(6) does not require detailed factual allegations, a plaintiff must  
4 provide more than mere labels and conclusions. Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007).

5 **I. Portions Taken from the Original Complaint**

6 The First Amended Complaint copies the entirety of the original complaint. (Compare ECF No.  
7 7 with ECF No. 40 at 1-6, 8-18, 23-25). As stated above, the Court previously dismissed several portions  
8 of the original complaint. (ECF No. 6 at 23-25). The First Amended Complaint does not change the  
9 counts that have been dismissed or given any reason why previously dismissed Defendants should be kept  
10 in the case. The Court's previous screening Order remains in effect, and the counts and Defendants who  
11 have been dismissed with prejudice will not be added back into the case under the First Amended  
12 Complaint.

13 **II. Count VII-Deliberate Indifference and/or Retaliation**

14 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Dwaine Wilson does not provide Plaintiff with his approved  
15 medical diet. (ECF No. 40 at 19). Instead, Plaintiff is provided with cheap and non-approved substitutes  
16 that have left Plaintiff's lipid levels "extremely high," or is not provided with any replacement meal. (Id.).

17  
18 Construed liberally, Count VII states a colorable claim for deliberate indifference to medical needs  
19 under the Eighth Amendment. The Eighth Amendment requires that "prisoners receive food that is  
20 adequate to maintain health." LeMaire v. Maass, 12 F.3d 1444, 1456 (9th Cir. 1993). Plaintiff alleges  
21 that the food provided to him is not adequate to maintain his health. Plaintiff also mentions he has filed  
22 grievances on this matter (ECF No. 40 at 19), which could support a retaliation claim. See Rhodes v.  
23 Robinson, 408 F.3d 559, 567-68 (9th Cir. 2004). Therefore, Count VII will proceed.

1 **III. Count VIII-Equal Protection, Due Process, and/or Retaliation**

2 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants “either creates, promulgated, [or] implemented operation of AR  
3 516 Level System in closed custody protective segregation that is double punishment for disciplinary  
4 action.” (ECF No. 40 at 20). Plaintiff asserts that his classification under AR 516 denies him the  
5 fundamental rights enjoyed by other inmates—adequate yard, tier, and gym access. (Id.). Plaintiff also  
6 alleges that the system uses excessive lockdowns with no warnings “as retaliation/discrimination specific  
7 to PC Level 3.” (Id.).

8 Construed liberally, Count VII states a colorable equal protection, due process, or retaliation claim.  
9 When evaluating a claim based on segregation in prison, “a court must examine the substance of the  
10 alleged deprivation and determine whether it constitutes an ‘atypical and significant hardship on  
11 the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life.’” *Hernandez v. Cox*, 989 F. Supp. 2d 1062,  
12 1068-69 (D. Nev. 2013) (quoting *Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 484 (1995)). “[E]xercise is one of the  
13 most basic human necessities protected by the Eighth Amendment.” *Thomas v. Ponder*, 611 F.3d 1144,  
14 1151-52 (9th Cir. 2010). Plaintiff has alleged that, based on his classification, the prison is depriving him  
15 of a necessity provided to other prisoners. Therefore, Count VIII will proceed.

16 **IV. Count IX-Due Process and Access to the Courts**

17 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants Pickett, Russell, Tiernes, and Nash have fraudulently conspired  
18 to prevent grievances from being exhausted to frustrate civil litigation. (ECF No. 40 at 21). The allegation  
19 in Count IX are similar to those in Count I, where Plaintiff asserts that “staff are being trained to defeat  
20 exhaustion through fraud, collusion, and conspiracy” (Id. at 9), though Count IX is brought against one of  
21 the newly named Defendants—Pickett (Id. at 21). For the reasons discussed in the Court’s previous  
22 screening Order regarding Count I (ECF No. 6 at 10), Plaintiff states a colorable claim for relief for denial  
23 of due process and access to the Courts, and Count IX will proceed.  
24  
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1 **V. Count X-Deliberate Indifference and Equal Protection**

2 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants Moca and Alvarez are involved in the non-functioning emergency  
3 call button issue discussed in Count V. (ECF No. 40 at 22). The Court previously found that Plaintiff  
4 stated colorable equal protection and deliberate indifference claims in Count V against certain named  
5 Defendants “and the Doe Defendants (should Peck learn their true identities).” (ECF No. 6 at 17-19).  
6 Rather than add Defendants Moca and Alvarez to Count V, Plaintiff has added Count X against  
7 Defendants Moca and Alvarez to cover the same basic allegations. For the reasons discussed in the Court’s  
8 previous screening Order regarding Count V, Plaintiffs states colorable claims for deliberate indifference  
9 and equal protection, and Count X will proceed.

10 ACCORDINGLY, and for good cause shown,

11 IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff may proceed in this action with his First Amended Complaint. The  
12 Court’s previous screening Order (ECF No. 6) remains in effect, and the following Defendants and claims  
13 remain dismissed with prejudice:  
14

- 15 1. Defendants State of Nevada ex rel., the Nevada Department of Corrections, the Board of Prison  
Commissioners, and Judge Wiese;
- 16 2. The portions of Count II alleging a due process violation regarding implementing level  
17 classifications pursuant to AR 516, prison transfers from 2009-2010, and Peck’s listed  
18 grievances; and
- 19 3. Count IV.

20 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall electronically serve a copy of this  
21 Order and a copy of Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint (ECF No. 40) on the Office of the Attorney  
22 General of the State of Nevada. This does not indicate acceptance of service.

23 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within 21 days of the date of entry of this order, the Attorney  
24 General’s Office shall file a notice advising the Court and Plaintiff whether it accepts service on behalf of  
25

1 the newly-named Defendants: Correctional Officer Moca, Associate Warden Hubbard Pickett, and  
2 Correctional Officer Alvarez. (See ECF No. 27 at 2-3 for specific instructions regarding the contents of  
3 the notice).

4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants have 90 days from the date of this Order to file and  
5 serve an answer or other response to the First Amended Complaint.

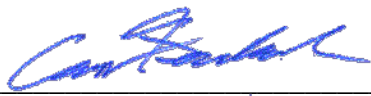
6 **NOTICE**

7 Pursuant to Local Rules IB 3-1 and IB 3-2, a party may object to orders and reports and  
8 recommendations issued by the magistrate judge. Objections must be in writing and filed with the Clerk  
9 of the Court within fourteen days. LR IB 3-1, 3-2. The Supreme Court has held that the courts of appeal  
10 may determine that an appeal has been waived due to the failure to file objections within the specified  
11 time. *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 142 (1985). This circuit has also held that (1) failure to file objections  
12 within the specified time and (2) failure to properly address and brief the objectionable issues waives the  
13 right to appeal the District Court's order and/or appeal factual issues from the order of the District Court.  
14 *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153, 1157 (9th Cir. 1991); *Britt v. Simi Valley United Sch. Dist.*, 708 F.2d 452,  
15 454 (9th Cir. 1983).

16 Pursuant to LR IA 3-1, the Plaintiff must immediately file written notification with the court of  
17 any change of address. The notification must include proof of service upon each opposing party of the  
18 party's attorney. Failure to comply with this Rule may result in dismissal of the action.

19  
20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21 DATED this 1st day of April, 2019.

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25 CAM FERENBACH  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE