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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
W.D.N.Y. - BUFFALO

JEFFERY GOODSON, 07A1685,

Plaintiff,

07-CV-6291L

-v-

MEMORANDUM and ORDER

WILLARD DRUG TREATMENT CAMPUS DOC,  
NEW YORK STATE, MEDICAL STAFF and  
WILLARD DRUG TREATMENT CAMPUS DOC,  
NEW YORK STATE, SECURITY;

Defendants.

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### INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff, Jeffery Goodson, an inmate of the Franklin Correctional Facility, has filed this *pro se* action seeking relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Docket No. 1) and has both requested permission to proceed *in forma pauperis* and filed a signed Authorization (Docket No. 2). Plaintiff claims that the defendants, Willard Drug Treatment Campus DOC, New York State, Medical Staff and Willard Drug Treatment Campus DOC, New York State, Security violated his rights when he was subjected to deliberate indifference to his medical need and cruel and unusual punishment. For the reasons discussed below, plaintiff's request to proceed as a poor person is granted, but unless plaintiff files an amended complaint as directed below, the complaint will be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A.

### DISCUSSION

Because plaintiff has met the statutory requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) and filed an Authorization with respect to this action, plaintiff is granted permission to proceed

*in forma pauperis*. Sections 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A(a) of 28 U.S.C. require the Court to conduct an initial screening of this complaint. In evaluating the complaint, the Court must accept as true all factual allegations and must draw all inferences in plaintiff's favor. See *King v. Simpson*, 189 F.3d 284, 287 (2d Cir. 1999). Dismissal is not appropriate "unless it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which would entitle him to relief." *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41, 45-46 (1957); and see *Chance v. Armstrong*, 143 F.3d 698, 701 (2d Cir. 1998).

Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. "To state a valid claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the plaintiff must allege that the challenged conduct (1) was attributable to a person acting under color of state law, and (2) deprived the plaintiff of a right, privilege, or immunity secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States." *Whalen v. County of Fulton*, 126 F.3d 400, 405 (2d Cir. 1997) (citing *Eagleston v. Guido*, 41 F.3d 865, 875-76 (2d Cir.1994)). Based on its evaluation of the complaint, the Court finds that, unless plaintiff files an amended complaint as directed below, plaintiff's claims must be dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii) because they fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

Plaintiff has failed to name any individual defendants responsible for the violation of his rights. As discussed above, plaintiff must allege that a person was responsible for the violation. Plaintiff has named two groups of individuals who were responsible, the medical staff and the security staff at Willard Drug Treatment Campus, but no individuals who can be served. However, the Court will permit plaintiff to file an amended complaint in which the necessary allegations regarding this issue are included. *Davidson v. Flynn*,

32 F.3d 27, 31 (2d Cir. 1994) (“Sparse pleadings by a pro se litigant unfamiliar with the requirements of the legal system may be sufficient at least to permit the plaintiff to amend his complaint to state a cause of action”); Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a) (leave to amend “shall be freely given when justice so requires”). If plaintiff is unable to identify any of the individuals who he alleges violated his rights by name, he may name them as John or Jane Does and give as much description of them as possible, including their physical description, positions at Willard, times and dates of events, or anything else that would allow plaintiff to determine their identity through discovery.

With regard to plaintiff’s request for appointment of counsel, there is insufficient information before the Court at this time to make the necessary assessment of plaintiff’s claims under the standards promulgated by *Hendricks v. Coughlin*, 114 F.3d 390, 392 (2d Cir. 1997), and *Hodge v. Police Officers*, 802 F.2d 58 (2d Cir. 1986), as issue has yet to be joined. Therefore plaintiff’s motion for appointment of counsel is denied without prejudice to its renewal once there has been a response to the complaint. 28 U.S.C. § 1654.

### CONCLUSION

Because plaintiff has met the statutory requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) and filed an Authorization, his request to proceed *in forma pauperis* is granted. For the reasons set forth above, plaintiff’s complaint must be dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) unless he files an amended complaint by **July 24, 2007** in which he includes the necessary allegations regarding his claims as directed above and in a manner that complies with Rules 8 and 10 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Plaintiff is advised that an amended complaint is intended to completely replace the prior complaint in the action, and thus it "renders [any prior complaint] of no legal effect." *International Controls Corp. v. Vesco*, 556 F.2d 665, 668 (2d Cir. 1977), *cert. denied sub nom., Vesco & Co., Inc. v. International Controls Corp.*, 434 U.S. 1014 (1978); *see also Shields v. Citytrust Bancorp, Inc.*, 25 F.3d 1124, 1128 (2d Cir. 1994). Therefore, plaintiff's amended complaint must include all of the allegations against each of the defendants against whom the case is going forward so that the amended complaint may stand alone as the sole complaint in this action which the defendants must answer.

Plaintiff is forewarned that if he fails to file an amended complaint as directed, the complaint will be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). Plaintiff is further forewarned that his right to pursue further relief in federal court at public expense will be greatly curtailed if he has three actions or appeals dismissed under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

#### **ORDER**

IT HEREBY IS ORDERED, that plaintiff's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* is granted;

FURTHER, that plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel is denied without prejudice;

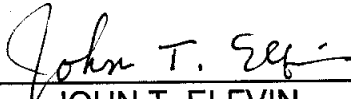
FURTHER, that plaintiff is granted leave to file an amended complaint as directed above by **July 24, 2007**;

FURTHER, that the Clerk of the Court is directed to send to plaintiff with this order a copy of the original complaint, a blank § 1983 complaint form, and the instructions for preparing an amended complaint;

FURTHER, that in the event plaintiff fails to file an amended complaint as directed above by **July 24, 2007**, the complaint may be dismissed with prejudice.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: Buffalo, New York  
June 22, 2007

  
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JOHN T. ELFVIN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE