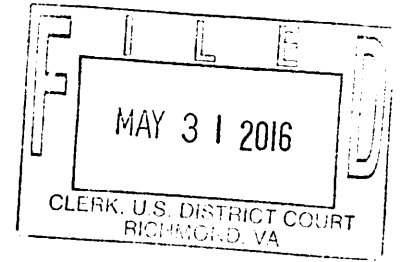


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Richmond Division



JODY MICHAEL ALLEN, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 3:15CV457

K. WRIGHT,

Defendant.

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

Jody Michael Allen, a Virginia prisoner proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis*, brings this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.<sup>1</sup> The matter is before the Court for evaluation pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). For the reasons that follow, the action will be DISMISSED AS MOOT.

**I. Standard for Motion to Dismiss for Failure to State a Claim**

When an individual is proceeding *in forma pauperis*, this Court must dismiss the action if the Court determines the action (1) “is frivolous” or (2) “fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). The first standard includes claims based upon “an indisputably meritless legal theory,” or claims where the “factual contentions are clearly baseless.” *Clay v. Yates*, 809 F. Supp. 417, 427 (E.D. Va. 1992) (quoting *Neitzke v. Williams*,

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<sup>1</sup> The statute provides, in pertinent part:

Every person who, under color of any statute . . . of any State . . . subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law . . . .

42 U.S.C. § 1983.

490 U.S. 319, 327 (1989)), *aff'd*, 36 F.3d 1091 (4th Cir. 1994). The second standard is the familiar standard for a motion to dismiss under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6).

“A motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6) tests the sufficiency of a complaint; importantly, it does not resolve contests surrounding the facts, the merits of a claim, or the applicability of defenses.” *Republican Party of N.C. v. Martin*, 980 F.2d 943, 952 (4th Cir. 1992) (citing 5A Charles A. Wright & Arthur R. Miller, *Federal Practice and Procedure* § 1356 (1990)). In considering a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim, a plaintiff’s well-pleaded allegations are taken as true and the complaint is viewed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff. *Mylan Labs., Inc. v. Matkari*, 7 F.3d 1130, 1134 (4th Cir. 1993); *see also Martin*, 980 F.2d at 952. This principle applies only to factual allegations, however, and “a court considering a motion to dismiss can choose to begin by identifying pleadings that, because they are no more than conclusions, are not entitled to the assumption of truth.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 679 (2009).

The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure “require[ ] only ‘a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief,’ in order to ‘give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.’” *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007) (omission in original) (quoting *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41, 47 (1957)). Plaintiffs cannot satisfy this standard with complaints containing only “labels and conclusions” or a “formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action.” *Id.* (citations omitted). Instead, a plaintiff must assert facts that rise above speculation and conceivability to those that “show” a claim that is “plausible on its face.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678-79 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2); *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570). “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.” *Id.* at 678 (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556). Therefore, in order for a

claim or complaint to survive dismissal for failure to state a claim, the plaintiff must “allege facts sufficient to state all the elements of [his or] her claim.” *Bass v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co.*, 324 F.3d 761, 765 (4th Cir. 2003) (citations omitted). Lastly, while the Court liberally construes *pro se* complaints, *Gordon v. Leeke*, 574 F.2d 1147, 1151 (4th Cir. 1978), it does not act as the inmate’s advocate, *sua sponte* developing statutory and constitutional claims the inmate failed to clearly raise on the face of his complaint. *See Brock v. Carroll*, 107 F.3d 241, 243 (4th Cir. 1997) (Luttig, J., concurring); *Beaudett v. City of Hampton*, 775 F.2d 1274, 1278 (4th Cir. 1985).

## **II. Summary Of Allegations**

Allen filed the present action while incarcerated in the Riverside Regional Jail. (Compl. 4.)<sup>2</sup> Allen alleges:

I am a Hepatitis C carrier and requested to be treated for Hepatitis C. Lab tests were taken June 29th, 2015, to confirm my having Hepatitis C. . . . On July 17th, 2015, I was seen by Doctor Wright and told by her I would not receive treatment for Hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is a chronic, life-threatening disease to which my being denied treatment amounts to cruel and unusual punishment.

(*Id.* at 5.) Allen seeks injunctive relief in the form of treatment for his Hepatitis C. Since the filing of the Complaint, Allen was transferred from the Riverside Regional Jail to the Nottoway Correctional Center. (ECF No. 14, at 1.)

## **III. Analysis**

“[A]s a general rule, a prisoner’s transfer or release from a particular prison moots his claims for injunctive and declaratory relief with respect to his incarceration there.” *Rendelman v. Rouse*, 569 F.3d 182, 186 (4th Cir. 2009) (citing *Incumaa v. Ozmint*, 507 F.3d 281, 286-87 (4th Cir. 2007); *see Williams v. Griffin*, 952 F.2d 820, 823 (4th Cir. 1991); *Taylor v. Rogers*, 781 F.2d 1047, 1048 n.1 (4th Cir. 1986)). Allen’s only request for relief pertains to obtaining Hepatitis C

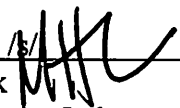
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<sup>2</sup> The Court corrects the capitalization and punctuation in the quotations from Allen’s Complaint.

treatment from K. Wright, a physician at the Riverside Regional Jail and the only defendant listed in the Complaint. As Allen is no longer incarcerated at the Riverside Regional Jail, the action will be DISMISSED AS MOOT.

An appropriate Order shall accompany this Memorandum Opinion.

Date: MAY 31 2016  
Richmond, Virginia

  
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M. Hannah Lauck  
United States District Judge