

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

PRO SE PRISONER CIVIL RIGHTS
COMPLAINT

CASE NO. _____

PLAINTIFF(S) [Write the name(s) of the person(s) complaining]

VS.

DEFENDANT(S) [Write the name(s) of every person you are suing. If you do not know a name, write "John Doe" or "Jane Doe." Include the defendant's rank or title and place of employment if you know it.]

Please complete every section and SIGN THE LAST PAGE.

A. JURISDICTION

Because federal courts cannot hear every kind of claim, you must identify the law that says this court can hear your claim. There are two possibilities. Check **one**.

I can bring my complaint in federal court because I am suing:

1. _____ State, county or city employees for violating my federal rights under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1983; OR

2. _____ Federal employees for violating my federal rights under *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Fed. Bureau of Narcotics*, 403 U.S. 388 (1971) and 28 U.S.C. Sec. 1331.

B. PLAINTIFF(S) (THE PERSON(S) FILING THIS COMPLAINT)

If there are more than two plaintiffs, attach additional pages. Provide items a, b, and c for each additional plaintiff.

1. First Plaintiff
 - a. Full Name:
 - b. Inmate Number:
 - c. Correctional facility:

2. Second Plaintiff
 - a. Full Name:
 - b. Inmate Number:
 - c. Correctional facility:

C. DEFENDANT(S) (THE PERSON(S) WHOSE ACTIONS YOU ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT)

1. First Defendant

a. Full Name:

b. Rank or Title:

c. Workplace:

2. Second Defendant

a. Full Name:

b. Rank or Title:

c. Workplace:

3. Third Defendant

a. Full Name:

b. Rank or Title:

c. Workplace:

4. Fourth Defendant

a. Full Name:

b. Rank or Title:

c. Workplace:

5. Fifth Defendant

a. Full Name:

b. Rank or Title:

c. Workplace:

6. Sixth Defendant

a. Full Name:

b. Rank or Title:

c. Workplace:

D. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS

Tell the Court if any plaintiff has filed other state or federal lawsuits involving these defendants or events. If you need more space, attach additional pages. **Provide items a-d for each case.**

1. First Lawsuit

- a. Court and Date filed:
- b. Caption and Docket No.:
- c. Briefly, what was this lawsuit about?

- d. Did you win or lose? If you lost, did you appeal? If you appealed, what did the appeals court say?

2. Second Lawsuit

- a. Court and Date filed:
- b. Caption and Docket No.:
- c. Briefly, what was this lawsuit about?

- d. Did you win or lose? If you lost, did you appeal? If you appealed, what did the appeals court say?

3. Third Lawsuit

- a. Court and Date filed:
- b. Caption and Docket No.:
- c. Briefly, what was this lawsuit about?

- d. Did you win or lose? If you lost, did you appeal? If you appealed, what did the appeals court say?

E. REASON FOR COMPLAINT

WARNING: Common mistakes can get your case **dismissed as frivolous or for failure to state a good legal claim.** If this happens, you will still have to pay the filing fee, even if you are proceeding *in forma pauperis*. To avoid losing your filing fee, please read these instructions carefully and consult Inmate Legal Assistance at 1-800-301-ILAP (4527) before you file.

1. **PROVIDE A SHORT AND PLAIN STATEMENT OF YOUR CLAIM.** Only include the facts of your claim: State what happened, who was involved, how they were involved, when the events took place, how you were hurt and what is the extent of your injuries.
2. **DO NOT INCLUDE UNRELATED CLAIMS IN THE COMPLAINT.** You should only include allegations regarding one set of circumstances that involve the defendants. Federal court rules require that unrelated claims must be filed in separate actions. For example, if you have a claim for use of excessive force against one defendant and a due process claim against another defendant, the claims should not be included in the same complaint.
3. **DO NOT MAKE LEGAL ARGUMENTS OR CITE CASE LAW.**
4. **YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ATTACH EXHIBITS.** If you do attach exhibits, you should refer to the exhibits in the statement of your claim and explain why they are relevant.
5. **USE THE PRISON GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE BEFORE FILING YOUR LAWSUIT.**
6. **DO NOT INCLUDE INCIDENTS THAT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO:** If you are suing about events that happened more than three years ago, the defendants may ask the Court to dismiss your case under the "statute of limitations."
7. **DO NOT INCLUDE AS DEFENDANTS PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT PERSONALLY INVOLVED.** You can generally only sue defendants who were directly involved in harming you. In order to sue a supervisor, you must usually show that the supervisor knew about the actions of other defendants and failed to stop them.
8. **DO NOT INCLUDE CLAIMS RELATING TO YOUR CRIMINAL CONVICTION OR TO PRISON DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING THAT RESULTED IN LOSS OF GOOD TIME CREDITS.** If winning your claims "would necessarily imply the invalidity" of a criminal conviction or prison disciplinary punishment affecting the time served, then you cannot make these claims under Section 1983 unless you have already had the conviction or prison disciplinary proceeding invalidated, for example through a habeas proceeding.

Statement of Case

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

If you need more space, attach additional pages, but be as brief as possible.

F. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

Tell the court what kind of relief you want. **Remember:** (1) You can only get money damages for mental or emotional injury if you were also physically injured; (2) Money damages may be reduced to pay restitution to victims of your crime and fees for a court-appointed attorney, if you had one; (3) You cannot use a Section 1983 or *Bivens* action to request release from custody, a reduction in your sentence, or a restoration of good time credits. For any of these, you must pursue a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

G. DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY

WARNING: You must sign this or your complaint will not be filed.

By signing this complaint, I certify under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this complaint is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I lie in this complaint, I may be prosecuted for perjury, and punished with as much as five (5) years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000. See 18 U.S.C. Sections 1621, 3571.

Signature: _____

Signed at _____ on _____
(Location) (Date)

If there are additional plaintiffs, attach another page with the name and signature of each plaintiff on it. **The complaint cannot be filed without a signature from each plaintiff.**

H. FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING: Your complaint will not be filed unless you complete each of these steps:

1. Sign the Declaration under Penalty of Perjury on p. 7.
2. Provide one copy of the complaint for the Clerk's Office. If the correctional facility in which you are incarcerated participates in the Prisoner Electronic Filing Program, you should efile the complaint.
3. If the correctional facility in which you are incarcerated does not participate in the Prisoner Electronic Filing Program, send the complaint to one of the seats of court listed below:
 - CLERK'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, 915 LAFAYETTE BOULEVARD, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604.
 - CLERK'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, 450 MAIN ST, HARTFORD, CT 06103
 - CLERK'S OFFICE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, 141 CHURCH ST, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510

Remember, the Clerk cannot file your complaint unless you take all of the steps above.