

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA**

Kevin Massengale v. Kern County Sheriff Detentional Facility

Massengale v. Kern County Sheriff Detentional Facility · No. 1:24-cv-00010-SKO · Decided January 12, 2026

OPINION

Kevin Massengale v. Kern County Sheriff Detentional Facility

PER CURIAM.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 11 KEVIN MASSENGALE, Case No.: 1:24-cv-00010-SKO 12 Plaintiff, FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS TO

DISMISS WITHOUT LEAVE TO AMEND

13 v. FOR FAILURE TO STATE A CLAIM

FOLLOWING SCREENING OF THE

14 KERN COUNTY SHERIFF SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT

DETENTIONAL FACILITY,

15 14-DAY OBJECTION PERIOD

Defendant. 16 Clerk of the Court to Assign District Judge 17 18 Plaintiff Kevin Massengale, a
former county jail inmate, is proceeding pro se and in forma 19 pauperis in this civil rights action
pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 1983.

20 I. BACKGROUND

21 On March 19, 2024, this Court issued its First Screening Order. (Doc. 11.) The Court 22
determined Plaintiff's complaint violated Rule 9 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and 23
failed to state a claim upon which relief could be granted. (Id. at 4-9.) Plaintiff was provided with
24 potentially applicable legal standards and granted leave to file a first amended complaint. (Id.
at 25 9-13.) 26 On April 8, 2024, Plaintiff filed his first amended complaint. (Doc. 12.) 27 // 1 On
April 11, 2025, the Court issued its Second Screening Order. (Doc. 13.) The Court 2 construed
Plaintiff's amended complaint to assert a Monell¹ claim, claims arising under 18 U.S.C. 3 section
241, 42 U.S.C. section 1985 and 1986, a First Amendment free exercise claim, a 4 Thirteenth
Amendment claim, a Fourteenth Amendment pretrial detainee conditions of 5 confinement claim,
and a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) claim, and 6 determined
Plaintiff failed to state a claim upon which relief could be granted. (Id. at 6-16.) 7 Plaintiff was
granted one final opportunity to amend his complaint to cure the deficiencies 8 identified in the
Court's screening order. (Id. at 16-17.) On April 29, 2025, Plaintiff filed a 9 second amended

complaint. (Doc. 14.) 10 As explained below, the undersigned will recommend this action be dismissed for 11 Plaintiff's failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

12 II. SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

13 The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against a 14 governmental entity or an officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). 15 The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if the complaint is frivolous or malicious, 16 fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant 17 who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b). The Court should dismiss a complaint if 18 it lacks a cognizable legal theory or fails to allege sufficient facts to support a cognizable legal 19 theory. See *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

20 III. PLEADING REQUIREMENTS

21 A. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a) 22 "Rule 8(a)'s simplified pleading standard applies to all civil actions, with limited 23 exceptions." *Swierkiewicz v. Sorema N.A.*, 534 U.S. 506, 513 (2002). A complaint must contain 24 "a short and plain statement of the claims showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." Fed. R. 25 Civ. P. 8(a)(2). "Such a statement must simply give the defendant fair notice of what the 26 plaintiff's claim is and the grounds upon which it rests." *Swierkiewicz*, 534 U.S. at 512 (internal 27 1 *Monell v. Department of Social Services of City of New York*, 436 15 U.S. 658 (1978). 1 quotation marks & citation omitted). 2 Detailed factual allegations are not required, but "[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements of a 3 cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 4 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (citing *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)). Plaintiff must 5 set forth "sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to 'state a claim that is plausible on its face.'" 6 *Id.* (quoting *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570). Factual allegations are accepted as true, but legal 7 conclusions are not. *Id.* (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555). 8 The Court construes pleadings of pro se prisoners liberally and affords them the benefit of 9 any doubt. *Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th Cir. 2010) (citation omitted). However, "the 10 liberal pleading standard . . . applies only to a plaintiff's factual allegations," not his legal 11 theories. *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 330 n.9 (1989). Furthermore, "a liberal interpretation 12 of a civil rights complaint may not supply essential elements of the claim that were not initially 13 pled," *Bruns v. Nat'l Credit Union Admin.*, 122 F.3d 1251, 1257 (9th Cir. 1997) (internal 14 quotation marks & citation omitted), and courts "are not required to indulge unwarranted 15 inferences." *Doe I v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 572 F.3d 677, 681 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal quotation 16 marks & citation omitted). The "sheer possibility that a defendant has acted unlawfully" is not 17 sufficient to state a cognizable claim, and "facts that are merely consistent with a defendant's 18 liability" fall short. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (internal quotation marks & citation omitted). 19 B. Linkage and Causation

20 Section 1983 provides a cause of action for the violation of constitutional or other federal 21 rights by persons acting under color of state law. See 42 U.S.C. § 1983. To state a claim under

22 section 1983, a plaintiff must show a causal connection or link between the actions of the 23 defendants and the deprivation alleged to have been suffered by the plaintiff. See *Rizzo v. Goode*, 24 423 U.S. 362, 373-75 (1976). The Ninth Circuit has held that “[a] person ‘subjects’ another to the 25 deprivation of a constitutional right, within the meaning of section 1983, if he does an affirmative 26 act, participates in another’s affirmative acts, or omits to perform an act which he is legal required 27 to do that causes the deprivation of which complaint is made.” *Johnson v. Duffy*, 588 F.2d 740, 1 C. Supervisory Liability 2 Liability may not be imposed on supervisory personnel for the actions or omissions of 3 their subordinates under the theory of respondeat superior. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 676-77; see e.g., 4 *Simmons v. Navajo Cnty., Ariz.*, 609 F.3d 1011, 1020-21 (9th Cir. 2010) (plaintiff required to 5 adduce evidence the named supervisory defendants “themselves acted or failed to act 6 unconstitutionally, not merely that subordinate did”), overruled on other grounds by *Castro v. 7 Cnty of Los Angeles*, 833 F.3d 1060, 1070 (9th Cir. 2016); *Jones v. Williams*, 297 F.3d 930, 934 8 (9th Cir. 2002) (“In order for a person acting under color of state law to be liable under section 9 1983 there must be a showing of personal participation in the alleged rights deprivation: there is 10 no respondeat superior liability under section 1983”). 11 Supervisors may be held liable only if they “participated in or directed the violations, or 12 knew of the violations and failed to act to prevent them.” *Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th 13 Cir. 1989). “The requisite causal connection may be established when an official sets in motion a

14 ‘series of acts by others which the actor knows or reasonably should know would cause others to 15 inflict’ constitutional harms.” *Corales v. Bennett*, 567 F.3d 554, 570 (9th Cir. 2009). Accord 16 *Starr v. Baca*, 652 F.3d 1202, 1205-06 (9th Cir. 2011) (supervisory liability may be based on 17 inaction in the training and supervision of subordinates). 18 Supervisory liability may also exist without any personal participation if the official 19 implemented “a policy so deficient that the policy itself is a repudiation of the constitutional 20 rights and is the moving force of the constitutional violation.” *Redman v. Cnty. of San Diego*, 942 21 F.2d 1435, 1446 (9th Cir. 1991) (citations & quotations marks omitted), abrogated on other 22 grounds by *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825 (1970). 23 To prove liability for an action or policy, the plaintiff “must ... demonstrate that his 24 deprivation resulted from an official policy or custom established by a ... policymaker possessed 25 with final authority to establish that policy.” *Waggy v. Spokane County Washington*, 594 F.3d 26 707, 713 (9th Cir.2010). When a defendant holds a supervisory position, the causal link between 27 such defendant and the claimed constitutional violation must be specifically alleged. See *Fayle v. 1 involvement of supervisory personnel in civil rights violations are not sufficient*. See *Ivey v. 2 Board of Regents*, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir. 1982).

3 IV. DISCUSSION

4 A. Plaintiff’s Second Amended Complaint 5 In the caption of his second amended complaint, Plaintiff names “DONNY 6 YOUNGBLOOD (in his official capacity)” and “KERN COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT 7 DETENTION FACILITY” as Defendants in this action. (Doc. 14.)

Under the heading “THE 8 FOLLOWING IS A COMPLAINT FOR,” Plaintiff identifies the following claims: 42 U.S.C. 9 section 1983, “False Imprisonment,” “Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress,” Fifth 10 Amendment due process and double jeopardy violations, and an Eighth Amendment cruel and 11 unusual punishment violation. (Id. at 1-2.) Plaintiff states he “brings this action against 12 Defendants for unlawful imprisonment, punitive confinement, deprivation of basic human 13 necessities, and repeated violations of constitutional protected rights under color of law.” (Id. at 14 2.) 15 Plaintiff seeks “One million lawful dollars for each day Falsely Imprisoned which 16 includes: compensatory damages for unlawful imprisonment, pain, and suffering; Punitive 17 damages for malicious and reckless conduct; Injunctive relief barring future unlawful harassment; 18 and Eighth Amendment neglect” in relief. (Doc. 14 at 7.) Plaintiff concludes that his “complaint 19 sufficiently pleads a RICO Violation, with 1983 claims under Monell liability and Ninth Circuit 20 Precedents. The Court should proceed because: A custom/practice of rights violations exists 21 (Christie); Deliberate indifference is shown (Long); County policies caused harm (Monell). The 22 Court must allow this claim to proceed.” (Id. at 8.) He attaches a September 9, 2023, Kern 23 County Sheriff’s Department Detention Facilities Inmate Grievance Form, identifying “Food 24 Service” as the issue (id. at 9), an Answer to Inmate Grievance dated September 12, 2023 (id. at 25 10), and another Inmate Grievance Form dated September 27, 2023 (id. at 11). 26 B. Plaintiff’s Factual Allegations 27 Under the heading “FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS,” Plaintiff listed the following bullet 1 points: 2 False Imprisonment & Abuse of Power 2 Plaintiff was unlawfully detained ... under false pretenses ... 3 Defendants ... imprison[ed] Plaintiff for a debt already satisfied in 2006 ... Holding Plaintiff 28 days without valid cause ... “kidnapping” ... 4 Punitive Confinement & Eighth Amendment violations Plaintiff was subjected to 28 days of deprivation of adequate food ... 5 Denying Plaintiff a religious diet ... Double Jeopardy (Fifth Amendment Violation) 6 Plaintiff was retried for the same case after serving time in 2006 ... 7 Municipal Liability ... [Prather/Monell/Christie] Repeated unlawful transports 8 Denial of religious meals (Eighth Amendment violation) Detention beyond lawful authority (28 days without justification) 9 These are not isolated incident but reflect a pattern ... Kidnapping & Transport for Profit 10 Plaintiff was shackled and transported five times between facilities ... 11 RICO Violations The County, Court, and Sheriff’s Office constitute RICO “enterprise” ... 12 RICO and Criminal Statute Claims ... Due Process (5th Amendment) 13 Freedom from Cruel and Unusual Punishment (8th Amendment) Protection from Double Jeopardy (5th Amendment) 14 False Imprisonment 15 Confinement without legal justification and beyond lawful authority Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress 16 Defendants’ conduct was extreme and outrageous ... Eighth Amendment Violation 17 Deliberate indifference to Plaintiff’s dietary and health needs No Training: Jail staff ignored his religious dietary needs 18 No Safeguards: Allowed repeated unlawful transports (Double Jeopardy) 19 Thompson, 563 U.S. 51 (2011) Plaintiff’s claims align with Long v. Cty of Los Angeles ... 20 Repeated prosecutorial harassment for the same case 21 (Doc. 14 at 2-6.) Under a heading titled “Legal Standards,” Plaintiff writes:

“The Court wrongly demands ‘magic words’ (e.g., ‘policy’) while ignoring substance” (Id. at 6.)

23 V. DISCUSSION

24 As an initial matter, the undersigned notes that despite providing Plaintiff with numerous 25 potential legal standards and explaining that he must provide sufficient factual specificity to state 26 a claim, Plaintiff again fails to state any claim upon which relief can be granted. 27 2 1 In its First Screening Order, the Court advised Plaintiff his original complaint violated

2 Rule 8 because it lacked “sufficient factual detail and fail[ed] to give ‘fair notice of what the 3 plaintiff’s claim is and the grounds upon which is rests.’” (Doc. 11 at 6.) The Court explained the 4 requirements for asserting a section 1983 claim against a municipality, (id. at 6-7), and provided 5 other information pertinent to his claims. (Id. at 7-9). The Court also provided numerous legal 6 standards that may be applicable to the claims Plaintiff sought to assert. (Id. at 9-12). 7 In its Second Screening Order, the Court was more explicit regarding the deficiencies 8 identified in the first amended complaint. (See Doc. 13.) In concluding that Plaintiff failed to state 9 a claim upon which relief could be granted, the Court construed the first amended complaint to 10 assert the following: Monell (id. at 6-7), 18 U.S.C. section 241 (id. at 7-8), 42 U.S.C. section 11 1986 (id. at 8-11), the First Amendment free exercise clause (id. at 11-13), the Thirteenth 12 Amendment (id. at 13-14), Fourteenth Amendment pretrial detainee conditions of confinement 13 (id. at 14-15), and RICO (id. at 15-16). 14 For each claim, the Court identified the deficiencies and advised Plaintiff that he could file 15 a second amended complaint as to those claims in which the deficiency could be cured or advised 16 Plaintiff that a particular claim could not be asserted in this action and thus amendment was futile. 17 For example, regarding the Fourteenth Amendment pretrial detainee conditions of confinement 18 claim, Plaintiff was specifically advised regarding the elements of such a claim, (Doc. 13 at 15), 19 and was further advised as follows: 20 While Plaintiff generally asserts he was shackled and transported improperly, his factual allegations are insufficient to state a claim. 21 Plaintiff will be afforded another opportunity to amend his complaint. Plaintiff should include factual allegations demonstrating 22 all four elements referenced in the Castro quote above. Plaintiff must also state who took any unconstitutional action against him; vague 23 and conclusory references like “they,” “them” “person,” “corporation,” and “defendant” are insufficient. 24 25 (Id.) Despite these advisements, in his second amended complaint, Plaintiff fails to allege factual 26 allegations demonstrating the required elements have been met. (See Doc. 14 at 2-6.) Plaintiff 27 also uses the vague term “Defendants” and does not identify any specific actor. (Id.) Plaintiff was 1 and was advised as follows: 2 Here, while Plaintiff makes passing reference to his “religious beliefs” and his need for a religious diet, his factual allegations are 3 insufficient to state a claim. Plaintiff will be afforded one final opportunity to amend his complaint. Plaintiff should include factual 4 allegations demonstrating how his sincerely held religious beliefs were substantially burdened and further demonstrating that the 5 actions taken by any defendant were not rationally related to legitimate

penological interests. Plaintiff must also state who took 6 any alleged unconstitutional action against him. Plaintiff may not simply state “they” or “defendants” failed to take some required 7 action. As explained in the Court’s prior screening order, short plain statements are required to “give the defendant fair notice of what the 8 plaintiff’s claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.” (See Doc. 11 at 2 [III. Pleading Requirements].) Stated another way, any 9 amended complaint must comply with Rule 8 by clearly and succinctly stating what happened, when it happened, and how each 10 defendant was involved. The Court is skeptical that Donny Youngblood, the Kern County Sheriff and the only person named in 11 Plaintiff’s first amended complaint, was involved but will permit Plaintiff to cure the deficiencies identified, assuming he can do so in 12 good faith. 13 (Id. at 12-13.) Plaintiff’s second amended complaint fails to adequately demonstrate how his 14 sincerely held religious beliefs were substantially burdened, or how any defendant’s actions were 15 not rationally related to a legitimate penological interest. As to the latter, in an attachment to his 16 complaint, “Trinity Mgr. S. Najera” indicates that in response to Plaintiff’s grievance (stating he 17 could not “consume meat, soy, milk, eggs or cheese”), the facility “followed up with medical to 18 confirm [his] Diet allergy” but that the facility was advised Plaintiff was “to receive a no beans 19 allergy diet only.” (See id. at 14.) The facility’s response reflects that the action was rationally 20 related to a legitimate penologist interest. 21 In sum, Plaintiff’s purported factual allegations are replete with legal conclusions³ which 22 the Court is not required to accept. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678. Plaintiff fails to provide “a short and 23 plain statement of the claims showing that [he] is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). As 24 pled, Plaintiff’s second amended complaint does not “give [any] defendant fair notice of what the 25 3 For example: “False Imprisonment & Abuse of Power,” “Plaintiff was unlawfully detained by Kern 26 County Sheriff’s Department under false pretenses, without provable cause, and in collusion with the Mojave Court,” “Punitive Confinement & Eighth Amendment Violations,” “Denying Plaintiff a religious 27 diet constitutes cruel and unusual punishment under *Estelle* ... *Holt* ... mandates accommodations for faith-based needs,” and “Kern County is liable for systemic misconduct,” and “Repeated unlawful transports (‘five different occasions’) for profit.” (Doc. 14 at 2-5.) 1 plaintiff’s claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.” *Swierkiewicz*, 534 U.S. at 512. And 2 throughout the second amended complaint, Plaintiff fails to show a causal connection or link 3 between the actions of the defendants and the deprivation alleged to have been suffered. *Rizzo*, 4 423 U.S. at 373-75; *Barren v. Harrington*, 152 F.3d 1193, 1194 (9th Cir. 1998); see also *Iqbal*, 5 556 U.S. at 676 (“Because vicarious liability is inapplicable to *Bivens* and § 1983 suits, a plaintiff 6 must plead that each Government-official defendant, through the official’s own individual actions, 7 has violated the Constitution”); *Leer v. Murphy*, 844 F.2d 628, 633 (9th Cir. 1988) (“The inquiry 8 into causation must be individualized and focus on the duties and responsibilities of each 9 individual defendant whose acts or omissions are alleged to have caused a constitutional 10 deprivation”). Plaintiff also fails to indicate which defendant(s) committed which alleged 11 violation(s). 12 State Law Claims 13 Plaintiff appears to

assert state law claims in his second amended complaint. For example, 14 he references false imprisonment⁴ and intentional infliction of emotional distress⁵. He again offers 15 nothing more than legal conclusions or “[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements” of the claim in the 16 absence of sufficient facts (e.g., “Defendants’ conduct was extreme and outrageous, causing 17 severe mental suffering” [Doc. 14 at 5]). *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678; *Swierkiewicz*, 534 U.S. at 512. 18 Plaintiff also fails to allege compliance with the California Government Claims Act. 19 Under the Act, a plaintiff may not maintain an action for damages against a public employee 20 unless he has presented a written claim to the state Victim Compensation and Government Claims 21 4 The elements ““of false imprisonment are: (1) the nonconsensual, intentional confinement of a person, 22

(2) without lawful privilege, and (3) for an appreciable period of time, however brief.” *Young v. County of*

Los Angeles, 655 F.3d 1156, 1169 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Easton v. Sutter Coast Hospital*, 80 23 Cal.App.4th 485, 496 (Ct. App. 2000)). 24 5 To state a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress under California law, a plaintiff must allege “(1) extreme and outrageous conduct by the defendant with the intention of causing, or reckless 25 disregard of the probability of causing, emotional distress; (2) the plaintiff’s suffering severe or extreme 26 emotional distress; and (4) actual and proximate causation of the emotional distress by the defendant’s outrageous conduct.” *Lawler v. Montblanc N. Am., LLC*, 704 F.3d 1235, 1245 (9th Cir. 2013) (quoting 27 *Hughes v. Pair*, 46 Cal.4th 1035, 1050 (2009)). The conduct must be “so extreme and outrageous as to go beyond all possible [bounds] of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.” *Butler v. Rueter*, No. 2:22-cv-01301 KJN P, 2023 WL 1991591, at *6 (E.D. Cal. 1 Board within six months of accrual of the action. Cal. Govt. Code §§ 905, 911.2(a), 945.4 & 2 950.2; see also *Klein v. City of Laguna Beach*, 533 Fed. Appx. 772, 774 (9th Cir. 2013) 3 (dismissing claims for failure to comply with the California Government Claims Act). Failure to 4 demonstrate such compliance constitutes a failure to state a cause of action and will result in the 5 dismissal of state law claims. *State of California v. Superior Court (Bodde)*, 32 Cal. 4th 1234, 6 1240, 13 Cal.Rptr.3d 534, 90 P.3d 116 (2004). 7 Claims That Should Be Raised in a Habeas Corpus Petition 8 To the extent Plaintiff’s false imprisonment claim is alleged not as a separate state law 9 claim, but rather arising under section 1983, it cannot proceed in this action. 10 “[W]hen a state prisoner is challenging the very fact or duration of physical imprisonment, 11 and the relief [the prisoner] seeks is a determination that is entitled to immediate release or a 12 speedier release from that imprisonment, sole remedy is a writ of habeas corpus.” *Preiser v. 13 Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. 475, 500 (1973) (holding that an injunctive relief action to restore the 14 revocation of good-time credits is not cognizable under § 1983); see also *Skinner v. Switzer*, 562 15 U.S. 521, 525 (2011); *Simpson v. Thomas*, 528 F.3d 685, 692-93 (9th Cir. 2008); *Ramirez v. 16 Galaza*, 334 F.3d 850, 855-56 (9th Cir. 2003); *Bogovich v. Sandoval*, 189 F.3d 999, 1002-03 (9th 17 Cir. 1999) (applying rule to ADA claim); *Neal v. Shimoda*, 131 F.3d 818, 824 (9th Cir. 1997);

18 *Trimble v. City of Santa Rosa*, 49 F.3d 583, 586 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam). 19 Where the section 1983 action would necessarily imply the invalidity of the conviction or 20 sentence, it may not proceed. See *Edwards v. Balisok*, 520 U.S. 641, 646-48 (1997) (concluding 21 that § 1983 claim was not cognizable because allegation of procedural defect – a biased hearing 22 officer – would result in an automatic reversal of the prison disciplinary sanction); *Heck v. 23 Humphrey*, 512 U.S. 477, 483-87 (1994) (concluding that § 1983 claim was not cognizable 24 because allegations were akin to malicious prosecution claim which includes as an element that 25 the criminal proceeding was concluded in plaintiff's favor); *Szajer v. City of Los Angeles*, 632 26 F.3d 607, 611-12 (9th Cir. 2011) (concluding that Fourth Amendment unlawful search claim was 27 not cognizable because a finding that there was no probable cause for the search would 1 *Cabrera v. City of Huntington Park*, 159 F.3d 374, 380 (9th Cir. 1998) (per curiam) (concluding 2 that claims for false arrest and false imprisonment were not cognizable because a finding that 3 there was no probable cause to arrest plaintiff for disturbing the peace would necessarily imply 4 that plaintiff's conviction for disturbing the peace was invalid). 5 Plaintiff's claim that he was falsely imprisoned beyond his earlier criminal sentence 6 necessarily challenges Plaintiff's sentence and resulting 28-day detention, and bars the complaint 7 from moving forward because of the "favorable termination" rule derived from *Heck*, regardless 8 of the remedy sought. *Cabrera*, 159 F.3d 374, 380; *Balisok*, 520 U.S. 641, 646-48; *Wilkinson v. 9 Dotson*, 544 U.S. 74, 81-82 (2005) (explaining that "a state prisoner's § 1983 action is barred 10 (absent prior invalidation) – no matter the relief sought (damages or equitable relief), no matter 11 the target of the prisoner's suit (state conduct leading to conviction or internal prison proceedings) 12 – if success in that action would necessarily demonstrate the invalidity of confinement or its 13 duration"). Accordingly, Plaintiff cannot state a claim for false imprisonment by way of section 14 1983. 15 Granting Further Leave to Amend Would Be Futile 16 Despite two earlier screening orders addressing the deficiencies of Plaintiff's claims, 17 Plaintiff incorrectly alleges the Court "wrongly demands 'magic words'" and ignores the 18 substance of his claims. (See Doc. 14 at 6.) Plaintiff has failed to meet the applicable pleading 19 requirements and at every opportunity has failed to provide sufficient detail to move beyond 20 screening. 21 Because Plaintiff's second amended complaint is deficient for the same reasons as those 22 articulated in the Court's first and second screening orders, (Docs. 11 & 13), and Plaintiff has 23 failed to remedy those deficiencies, Plaintiff cannot cure his pleadings and granting further leave 24 to amend would be futile. See *Hartman v. CDCR*, 707 F.3d 1114, 1129-30 (9th Cir. 2013) 25 (affirming dismissal of first amended complaint and finding leave to amend futile where 26 complaint's allegations belied plaintiff's entitlement to relief).

27 VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

1 amended complaint (Doc. 14) be dismissed without leave to amend for a failure to state a claim 2 upon which relief can be granted. 3 These Findings and Recommendations will be submitted to the United States District 4 Judge assigned to this case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within 14 days 5 after being served with a copy of these Findings and

Recommendations, a party may file written objections with the Court. Local Rule 304(b). The document should be captioned, "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations" and shall not exceed fifteen (15) pages without leave of Court and good cause shown. The Court will not consider exhibits attached to the Objections. To the extent a party wishes to refer to any exhibit(s), the party should reference the exhibit in the record by its CM/ECF document and page number, when possible, or otherwise reference the exhibit with specificity. Any pages filed in excess of the fifteen (15) page limitation may be disregarded by the District Judge when reviewing these Findings and Recommendations under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). A party's failure to file any objections within the specified time may result in the waiver of certain rights on appeal. *Wilkerson v. Wheeler*, 772 F.3d 834, 839 (9th Cir. 2014).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 12, 2026 /s/ Sheila K. Oberto .

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27