

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

Prince Paul Raymond Williams v. Capital One, N.A., et al.

Williams v. Capital One · No. 1:25-cv-00980-KES-EPG · Decided October 28, 2025

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 9 10 PRINCE PAUL RAYMOND WILLIAMS, No. 1:25-cv-00980-KES-EPG 11
Plaintiff, SCREENING ORDER 12 v. ORDER FOR PLAINTIFF TO: 13 CAPITAL ONE, N.A.,
et al., (1) FILE A SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT; OR 14 Defendants.

(2) NOTIFY THE COURT THAT HE 15 WISHES TO STAND ON HIS COMPLAINT 16 (ECF
NO. 13) 17 THIRTY-DAY DEADLINE 18 19 Plaintiff Prince Paul Raymond Williams
("Plaintiff") is proceeding pro se and in forma 20 pauperis. Plaintiff filed the Complaint
commencing this action on August 7, 2025. (ECF No. 1). 21 Plaintiff filed a First Amended
Complaint on September 18, 2025.

(ECF No. 13). Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint is 110 pages long. It asserts 14 causes of
action 22 against eight defendants. Plaintiff appears to assert that Defendants improperly sold or
assigned 23 an indebted account attributed to Plaintiff and published that account for collections.
24 The Court finds that the First Amended Complaint fails to state any cognizable claims 25
because it violates the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure including Rule 8(a) requiring "a short and
26 plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." 27 After Plaintiff
reviews this order, Plaintiff can decide to file an amended complaint, which 28 1 the Court will
screen in due course.

If Plaintiff chooses to file an amended complaint, it must be 2 no longer than twenty-five pages,
including exhibits. 3 Plaintiff can also notify the Court that he wants to stand on his complaint, in
which case 4 this Court will issue findings and recommendations to the district judge assigned to
the case recommending that Plaintiff's first amended complaint be dismissed for the reasons in
this order.

5 If Plaintiff does not file anything, the Court will recommend that the case be dismissed. 6 I.
SCREENING REQUIREMENT 7 As Plaintiff is proceeding in forma pauperis, the Court screens
this complaint under 28 8 U.S.C. § 1915. "Notwithstanding any filing fee, or any portion thereof,
that may have been paid, 9 the court shall dismiss the case at any time if the court determines that
the action or appeal fails to 10 state a claim upon which relief may be granted." 28 U.S.C. §
1915(e)(2)(B)(ii).

11 II. PLAINTIFF’S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT 12 Plaintiff filed his initial complaint on August 7, 2025 (ECF No. 1). Before the Court 13 could screen Plaintiff’s Complaint, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint (“FAC”) on 14 September 18, 2025. (ECF. No. 13). 15 Plaintiff’s FAC is 110 pages long and asserts 14 causes of action, including multiple 16 violations of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for alleged civil rights violations, municipal liability against the 17 Counties of Fresno and Solano (who are not defendants), violations of various credit reporting 18 statutes, and “forced labor/involuntary servitude,” among others.

Plaintiff names eight 19 defendants, in addition to Doe Defendants to be substituted later with their true identifies. 20 Plaintiff’s FAC begins as follows: 21 Plaintiff offers this invocation solely as context for identify, motive, and the 22 gravity of harms alleged. It is not pled as a standalone claim, element, defense, prayer for relief, or jurisdictional basis.

No adjudication of theological 23 propositions is requested or required. The United States’ legal tradition has long recognized nonsectarian, ceremonial references to the Divine as part of the 24 Nation’s historical practices and civic heritage.... Plaintiff’s invocation is 25 consonant [sic] with this tradition and is offered to situate his narrative within the values of truth, dignity, and equity that animate his personal conduct and remedial 26 aims—nothing more.

27 (ECF No. 13, at p. 1-2). 28 Plaintiff’s FAC then describes charges and collections that appear to relate to \$628.28 1 debt that appears on Plaintiff’s consumer reports. 2 The First Amended Complaint discusses a sections of the United States Code, California 3 Civil Code, California Business and Professional Code Federal Rules, case law, as well as 4 spiritual and moral principles.

5 III. ANALYSIS 6 A. Legal Standards 7 A complaint is required to contain “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that 8 the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Detailed factual allegations are not 9 required, but “[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere 10 conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (citing *Bell 11 Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)).

Plaintiff must set forth “sufficient factual 12 matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Id.* (quoting 13 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570). The mere possibility of misconduct falls short of meeting this 14 plausibility standard. *Id.* at 679. While a plaintiff’s allegations are taken as true, courts “are not 15 required to indulge unwarranted inferences.” *Doe I v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 572 F.3d 677, 681 16 (9th Cir.

2009) (citation and quotation marks omitted). The complaint must also contain 17 “sufficient allegations of underlying facts to give fair notice and to enable the opposing party to 18 defend itself effectively.” *Starr v. Baca*, 652 F.3d 1202, 1216 (9th Cir. 2011).

Moreover, Plaintiff 19 must demonstrate that each named defendant personally participated in the deprivation of his 20 rights. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 676-77. 21 A court may dismiss a complaint for failure to comply with Rule 8(a) if it is “verbose, 22 confusing and conclusory.” *Nevijel v. N. Coast Life Ins. Co.*, 651 F.2d 671, 674 (9th Cir. 1981); 23 *Brosnahan v. Caliber Home Loans, Inc.*, 765 F. App’x 173, 174 (9th Cir.

2019) (unpublished) 24 (“The district court did not abuse its discretion by dismissing Brosnahan’s TILA claim because 25 the second amended complaint failed to comply with Rule 8(a)’s requirement of a short and plain 26 statement of the claim.”). Additionally, a court may dismiss a complaint for failure to comply 27 with Rule 8(a) if it is “argumentative, prolix, replete with redundancy, and largely irrelevant.” 28 *McHenry v. Renne*, 84 F.3d 1172, 1177 (9th Cir.

1996). 1 B. Analysis 2 The Court finds that Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint violates Rule 8(a). Plaintiff’s 3 FAC does not contain a short and plain statement of the claim showing that Plaintiff is entitled to 4 relief. Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint is over 100 pages long, and contains numerous pages 5 of definitions and legal arguments interspersed with factual allegations and conclusory 6 statements.

7 Plaintiff’s allegations also improperly group all defendants together without making clear 8 which individual defendants did the actions underlying Plaintiff’s claims. For example, 9 Plaintiff’s FAC states: Plaintiff publicly asserted exclusive common-law trademark rights in his 10 ecclesiastical name and identifiers—including PRINCE PAUL RAYMOND 11 WILLIAMS—through publication and constructive notice (Exhibit 3).

Defendants used Plaintiff’s name and ecclesiastical identifiers as commercial 12 inputs in debt monetization and data sales/sharing, including in collection communications, credit furnishing, and transmission to data brokers, without 13 authorization contrary to Plaintiff’s express disputes and trademark publication. This misuse constitutes misappropriate and dilution of Plaintiff’s 14 protected intangible identifiers under California common law.

15 (ECF No. 13, at p. 53). The First Amended Complaint also asserts equitable claims based on 16 spiritual values that are not tied to statutes or legal claims. For example, the FAC states: 17 In addition to statutory and common-law protections, Plaintiff reaffirms that his name and ecclesiastical identifiers are bound to his spiritual estate and 18 fiduciary mission.

The sale and sharing of his identifiers and personal information for reputational suppression and commercial gain are not only 19 unlawful and unfair under California law—they are morally unconscionable. 20 Plaintiff invokes the Court’s equitable powers to restore his autonomy and dignity, to deter further commodification of his person, and to vindicate the 21 intertwined legal and spiritual values at state in this controversy.

22 (Id. at 56). 23 In conclusion, Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint is subject to dismissal for not
24 containing a short and plain statement of the claim as required by Rule 8. 25 As described
below, the Court will allow Plaintiff to file an additional amended 26 complaint.

However, Plaintiff's second amended complaint will be limited 25 pages and must 27 include a
short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief. 28 1 IV.
CONCLUSION AND ORDER 2 The Court has screened Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint and
finds that it fails to state 3 any cognizable claim because it fails to comply with the Federal Rule
of Civil Procedure 8.

4 Under Rule 15(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, "the court should freely give 5
leave [to amend] when justice so requires." Accordingly, Plaintiff is granted leave to file an 6
amended complaint within thirty days.

However, any amended complaint must be no longer than 7 twenty-five pages, including exhibits.
8 Plaintiff is advised that an amended complaint supersedes the original complaint, *Lacey v. 9*
Maricopa County, 693 F.3d. 896, 907 n.1 (9th Cir. 2012) (en banc), and it must be complete in 10
itself without reference to the prior or superseded pleading, Local Rule 220.

Therefore, in an 11 amended complaint, as in an original complaint, each claim and the
involvement of each 12 defendant must be sufficiently alleged. The amended complaint should be
clearly and boldly 13 titled "Second Amended Complaint," and refer to the appropriate case
number. 14 Based on the foregoing, it is HEREBY ORDERED that: 15 1. Within thirty (30) days
from the date of service of this order, Plaintiff shall either: 16 a. File a Second Amended
Complaint; or 17 b. Notify the Court in writing that he wants to stand on his First Amended 18
Complaint.

19 2. If Plaintiff chooses to file an amended complaint, Plaintiff shall caption the 20 amended
complaint "Second Amended Complaint" and refer to case number 1:25- 21 cv-00980-KES-EPG.
22 3. If Plaintiff chooses to file a second amended complaint, that must be no longer 23 than
twenty-five pages, including exhibits. 24 \\\ 25 \\\ 26 \\\ 27 \\\ 28 \\\ 1 4. Failure to comply with
this order may result in the dismissal of this action.

2 3 IT IS SO ORDERED. Dated: _ October 28, 2025 [sf hey 5 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE
JUDGE 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 &K