Doe v. Minidoka Co.



JOSEPH STANZAK 1025 Shoshone Street N. Twin Falls, Idaho 83301 (208) 734-5689

JAMES BELL
CAROLE SHAUFFER
MARK I. SOLER
YOUTH LAW CENTER
1663 Mission Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 543-3379

### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

### FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO

JOHN DOE, a minor, by and through JANE DOE, his Next Friend, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

Plaincills

v.

MINIDOKA COUNTY, IDAHO; RAY

JARVIS, in his official capacity
as Sheriff of Minidoka County,
Idaho; NORMAN SEIBOLD, LYLE BARTON,)
CLARENCE BELLEM, in their
official capacities as County
Commissioners of Minidoka County,
Idaho, CASSIA COUNTY, IDAHO;
BILLY CRYSTAL, in his official
capacity as Sheriff of Cassia
County, Idaho; WELDON BECK, NORMAN)
DAILEY, and JOHN ADAMS, in their
official capacities as County
Commissioners of Cassia County,
Idaho,

<u>Defendants.</u>

CIV. NO. 87-1356

AMENDED CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY, INJUNCTIVE, AND OTHER EQUITABLE AND RELIEF

(CLASS ACTION)

# INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

 This is a civil rights class action challenging conditions of confinement for juveniles at the Minidoka County

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Jail, in Rupert, Idaho, and the policies and practices of defendants of confining juveniles in that Jail. This suit also challenges the conditions of confinement for juveniles at the Cassia County Jail, in Burley, Idaho and the policies and practices of defendants of confining juveniles in that Jail. Plaintiff John Doe, through Jane Doe, his guardian and Next Friend, brings this action for declaratory, injunctive, and other equitable relief on behalf of himself and all other juveniles similarly situated who are, have been, or will in the future be confined in the Minidoka County and Cassia County Jails and subjected by defendants to cruel, unconscionable, and illegal conditions of confinement in the Jails; to illegal incarceration in the Jails without adequate separation from confined adult offenders.

2. Plaintiff brings this action under the federal Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, to redress the violations by defendants, acting under color of state law, of the rights guaranteed to plaintiffs under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and of plaintiffs' statutory rights under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Sections 5601 et seq. ["Juvenile Justice Act"], as more particularly set forth in this Complaint. Plaintiff also brings this action under applicable Idaho constitutional provisions and statutes.

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### JURISDICTION

- 3. This Court has jurisdiction of this action under 28 U.S.C. Section 1343(3), this being an action to redress the deprivation, under color of state law, of rights secured by the Constitution of the United States and the Juvenile Justice Act, 42 U.S.C. Sections 5601 et seq.
- 4. This Court also has jurisdiction of this action under 28 U.S.C. Section 1343(4), this being an action to recover damages and to secure declaratory, injunctive, and other equitable relief under Acts of Congress providing for the protection of civil rights, specifically the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, and the Juvenile Justice Act.
- 5. This Court also has jurisdiction of this action under 28 U.S.C. Section 1331(a), this being an action in which the matter in controversy arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States.
- 6. This Court has jurisdiction to issue declaratory relief under 28 U.S.C. Sections 2201 and 2202, and Rules 57 and 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 7. This Court has pendant jurisdiction of plaintiff's state law claims which permits federal courts to determine state law claims which form separate but parallel grounds for relief sought in substantial claims based on federal law.

### PLAINTIFFS

8. Plaintiff John Doe is sixteen years old and a citizen of the United States. At all relevant times, he has

resided in Minidoka County, Idaho. During the month of November, he was taken into custody and incarcerated by defendants in the Minidoka County Jail awaiting an adjudication hearing. During his pre-adjudication detention plaintiff was temporarily moved to the Cassia County Jail because the Minidoka County Jail was overcrowded with adult inmates. He is currently under the Court's jurisdiction. He sues through his guardian and next friend Jane Doe.

## DEFENDANTS

- 9. Defendants MINIDOKA COUNTY, IDAHO, and CASSIA COUNTY, IDAHO, are local units of government in the state of Idaho. The practices, acts and omissions complained of herein are official policies and practices of defendant MINIDOKA COUNTY, IDAHO and CASSIA COUNTY, IDAHO.
- BELLEM are the County Commissioners of Minidoka County, Idaho.

  Similarly, defendants WELDON BECK, NORMAN DAILEY, and JOHN ADAMS are the County Commissioners of Cassia County, Idaho. As such, said defendants are responsible under Idaho Code Section 20-612 for appropriating such sums of money as will provide for the maintenance and operation of the Minidoka County Jail and the Cassia County Jail respectively. In addition, under Idaho Code Section 20-622, they are responsible for the inspection of the county jail every three months, and are required to investigate the treatment, security and condition of persons detained in the Jail, as well as take all necessary precautions against escape,

sickness or infection at the Jail. These defendants are sued in their official capacities.

11. Defendant, Ray Jarvis is the Sheriff of Minidoka County, Idaho. Similarly, Billy Crystal is the Sheriff of Cassia County, Idaho. As such, said defendants are responsible under Idaho Code Sections 31-2202(6) and 20-601 for the safety and welfare of all persons confined in the Minidoka County Jail and Cassia County Jail. Said defendants are sued in their official capacities.

All policies, practices and omissions complained of in this action are the official practices, customs and usages of defendants.

## CLASS ACTION

- 12. Plaintiff John Doe brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, pursuant to Rule 23(a), and (b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The class consists of all juveniles who are currently, have been, or in the future will be confined in the Minidoka County Jail or the Cassia County Jail.
- joinder of all members is impracticable. In addition, there are questions of law and fact common to the members of the plaintiff class regarding practices of the defendants, and the claims of the named plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the members of the plaintiff class. Named plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the class.

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- continue to act on grounds and in a manner generally applicable to the class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the class as a whole.
- The injuries suffered by the named plaintiff and the members of the plaintiff class as a result of the policies and practices of defendants are capable of repetition, yet may evade review, thereby making class relief appropriate.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

#### Allegations re: Minidoka County Jail Α.

- 16. The Minidoka County Jail is a secure facility located in Rupert, Idaho.
- 17. Defendants confine juveniles and adults in the Minidoka County Jail. Juveniles are often confined in the Jail for several days at a time.
- Juveniles have extensive contact with adult inmates in the Jail.
- 19. Juveniles are confined in three holding cells which are located in the section of Jail where adults are confined. Juveniles confined in these cells can hear the voices of adult prisoners and can converse in loud tones with them. When the doors to the cells are open, juveniles can see adults. Moreover, adults often have direct contact with the juveniles.
- Adult inmates (trustees) serve juveniles meals in 20. their cells and take and clean the bed linens and clothes

 utilized by the juveniles. These activities are unsupervised by Jail staff.

- 21. Juveniles in the Minidoka County Jail have no privacy. They must shower and use the toilet in front of each other and in front of staff or trustees.
- 22. Juveniles in the Minidoka County Jail are not adequately supervised or monitored. It is a regular policy and practice to leave juveniles for long periods of time without any staff supervision or monitoring.
- 23. Defendants further do not have any visual monitoring system for juveniles at the Jail.
- 24. Defendants have not implemented or promulgated rules and regulations for the proper handling and treatment of children who are detained in the Jail.
- 25. Defendants do not employ Jail personnel who are trained in identifying and responding to problems of juveniles. Defendants' failure to employ adequately trained staff results in lack of attention to problems of plaintiffs during their confinement, lack of appropriate assessment of plaintiffs' physical and emotional needs, and lack of programming for plaintiffs during their confinement. Such failure subjects plaintiffs to serious danger at the hands of institutional personnel, other inmates, and themselves.
- 26. Defendants do not hire qualified personnel who can respond to and provide for the needs of plaintiffs in the Jail.
  - 27. Defendants do not adequately supervise Jail

personnel who are responsible for plaintiffs in the Jail.

- 28. Defendants do not adequately train staff in the cassia County Jail to deal with juveniles or to counsel them.
- 29. Defendants have failed to develop and implement a classification system for juveniles. As a result, juveniles charged with serious or violent offenses or juveniles who have serious criminal histories are housed with juveniles who have less serious offenses.
- 30. Defendants fail to provide adequate medical or psychological screening or examination for plaintiffs when plaintiffs are taken into custody. Defendants fail to provide regular medical or mental health services to plaintiffs.

  Medically untrained Jailers (jail personnel) dispense medication to children at the jail.
- 31. The Minidoka County juvenile section is often overcrowded and very filthy. Consequently, many juveniles suffer forced idleness in small confined dirty spaces.
- 32. Defendants do not provide juveniles with any education program in the Minidoka County jail.
- 33. Defendants do not provide juveniles with any indoor or outdoor recreation in the Minidoka County Jail.
- 34. Defendants fail to provide plaintiffs with any programming or activities during their periods of confinement.
- 35. Defendants do not provide juveniles with books or access to a library while confined in the Jail.
  - 36. As a result of defendants' policies, practices,

acts, and omissions, as described herein, plaintiffs' confinement by defendants in the Minidoka County Jail is cruel, harsh, punitive, and oppressive.

## B. Allegations re: Cassia County Jail

- 37. The Cassia County Jail is a secure facility located in Burley, Idaho.
- 38. Defendants confine juveniles and adults in the Cassia County Jail. Juveniles are often confined in the Jail for several days at a time.
- 39. Juveniles have extensive contact with adult inmates in the Jail.
- 40. Juveniles are confined in three holding cells which are located in the section of Jail where adults are confined. Juveniles confined in these cells can hear the voices of adult prisoners and can converse in loud tones with them. When the doors to the cells are open, juveniles can see adults. Moreover, adults often have direct contact with the juveniles.
- 41. Adult inmates (trustees) serve juveniles meals in their cells and take and clean the bed linens and clothes utilized by the juveniles. These activities are unsupervised by Jail staff subjecting plaintiffs to great harm.
- 42. Juveniles in the Cassia County Jail have no privacy. They must shower and use the toilet in front of each other and in front of staff or trustees.
- 43. Juveniles in the Cassia County Jail are not adequately supervised or monitored. It is a regular policy and

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practice to leave juveniles for long periods of time without any staff supervision or monitoring.

- 44. Defendants further do not have any visual monitoring system for juveniles at the Jail.
- 45. Defendants have not implemented or promulgated rules and regulations for the proper handling and treatment of children who are detained in the Jail.
- trained in identifying and responding to problems of juveniles.

  Defendants' failure to employ adequately trained staff results in lack of attention to problems of plaintiffs during their confinement, lack of appropriate assessment of plaintiffs' physical and emotional needs, and lack of programming for plaintiffs during their confinement. Such failure subjects plaintiffs to serious danger at the hands of institutional personnel, other inmates, and themselves.
- 47. Defendants do not hire qualified personnel who can respond to and provide for the needs of plaintiffs in the Jail.
- 48. Defendants do not adequately supervise Jail personnel who are responsible for plaintiffs in the Jail.
- 49. Defendants do not adequately train staff in the Cassia County Jail to deal with juveniles or to counsel them.
- 50. Defendants have failed to develop and implement a classification system for juveniles. As a result, juveniles charged with serious or violent offenses or juveniles who have serious criminal histories are housed with juveniles who have

less serious offenses.

- 51. Defendants fail to provide adequate medical or psychological screening or examination for plaintiffs when plaintiffs are taken into custody. Defendants fail to provide regular medical or mental health services to plaintiffs.

  Medically untrained jailers (jail personnel) dispense medication to children at the Jail.
- 52. The Cassia County juvenile section is often overcrowded. Consequently, many juveniles suffer forced idleness in small confined spaces.
- 53. Defendants do not provide juveniles with any education program in the Cassia County Jail.
- 54. Defendants do not provide juveniles with any indoor or outdoor recreation in the Cassia County Jail.
- 55. Defendants fail to provide plaintiffs with any programming or activities during their periods of confinement.
- 56. Defendants do not provide juveniles with books or access to a library while confined in the Jail.
- 57. As a result of defendants' policies, practices, acts, and omissions, as described herein, plaintiffs' confinement by defendants in the Cassia County Jail is cruel, harsh, punitive, and oppressive.

## C. <u>Juvenile Justice Act</u>

58. Section 223(13) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 42
U.S.C. Section 5633(13), provides that, in order to receive
funding under the Act, a state must comply with the requirement

that juveniles alleged or found to be delinquent shall not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have regular contact with adult persons who are incarcerated because they have been convicted of a crime or are awaiting trial on criminal charges. The State of Idaho receives funds under this Act.

- 59. Defendants regularly confine and detain juveniles alleged or found to be delinquents, in the Minidoka County and Cassia County Jails, where they have regular contact with adult persons who are incarcerated because they have been convicted of a crime or are awaiting trial on criminal charges.
- 60. Idaho Code Sections 20-602 and 20-603 provide that each Jail must provide separate and distinct housing for four categories of inmates: (1) persons committed on criminal process and detained for trial; (2) persons convicted of crime and held under sentence; (3) persons detained as witnesses or held under civil process, or under an order imposing punishment for contempt; and (4) males and females.
- 61. The defendants regularly confine and detain juveniles in the Minidoka County Jail and the Cassia County Jail in violation of the requirement of Idaho Code Section 20-602, in that juveniles are not segregated on the basis of their commitment status during their incarceration in the Jails, so that juveniles awaiting trial are incarcerated with juveniles serving sentences.
  - 62. Idaho Code Section 16-1812A states that detention

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 facilities must be constructed and maintained so as to keep children segregated from adult offenders, or those being treated as adult offenders, such that there be no sight and/or sound contact between the two classes.

- 63. The defendants regularly confine and detain juveniles in the Minidoka County Jail and the Cassia County Jail in violation of the requirement of Idaho Section 16-1812A. Juveniles have been similarly confined and detained at the Minidoka County Jail and the Cassia County Jail in the past, and will continue to be so confined and detained in the future unless plaintiffs are granted the relief requested.
  - Necessity for Injunctive Relief:
     No Adequate Remedy at Law
- 64. Defendants regularly subject plaintiffs to the cruel, unconscionable, and illegal conditions of confinement described above. Defendants have similarly confined and detained juveniles in the Minidoka County Jail and Cassia County Jail under such conditions in previous years, and defendants will continue to confine juveniles under such conditions in the future unless plaintiffs are granted the relief requested herein.
- 65. As a proximate result of the policies, practices, acts, and omissions of defendants complained of herein, plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer serious and irreparable physical, psychological, and emotional injuries. Plaintiffs have no plain, adequate, or complete remedy at law to redress the wrongs described herein. Plaintiffs will continue to be irreparably injured by the policies, practices, acts, and

 omissions of the defendants unless this Court grants the injunctive relief which plaintiffs seek.

## LEGAL CLAIMS

66. For plaintiffs' claims, each enumerated below, they reallege paragraphs 1 through 65 above, as if fully set forth herein, in each and every statement of claim, and further allege:

## FIRST CLAIM

omissions complained of herein, and specifically defendants subjection of plaintiffs to the cruel, unconscionable, and illegal conditions of confinement in the Minidoka County Jail and the Cassia County Jail deprive plaintiffs of due process of law, in violation of the Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and of the Idaho Constitution; violate plaintiffs' rights to freedom of association guaranteed by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Idaho Constitution; violate plaintiffs' right to privacy, guaranteed by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; violate plaintiffs' rights under 42 U.S.C. 1983; and violate plaintiffs' rights under 42 U.S.C. 1983; and violate plaintiffs' rights under the Idaho statutory sections cited herein.

## SECOND CLAIM

68. Defendants' policies, practices, acts, and omissions complained of herein, and specifically defendants'

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detention and confinement of juveniles in the Minidoka County
Jail and the Cassia County Jail without adequate separation from
adult offenders, violate plaintiffs' rights under the Juvenile
Justice Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 5633(13); subject plaintiffs to
denial of due process of law, in violation of the Fourteenth
Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Idaho
Constitution; and violate plaintiffs' rights under the Idaho
statutory sections cited herein.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays that this Court:

- A. Assume jurisdiction of this action;
- B. Permit this action to proceed in forma pauperis;
- C. Permit plaintiff to proceed in pseudonym;
- D. Issue an order certifying this action to proceed as a class action pursuant to Rule 23(a), and (b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
- E. Issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C Sections 2201 and 2202, and Rule 57 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that the policies, practices, acts, and omissions complained of herein:
- (1) violate plaintiffs' rights under the Juvenile Justice Act, 42 U.S.C. Sections 5601 et seq.;
- (2) subject plaintiffs to denial of due process of law, guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;
  - (3) violate plaintiffs' right to freedom of

- (4) violate plaintiffs' right to privacy, guaranteed by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Idaho Constitution;
- (5) violate plaintiffs' statutory rights under the Idaho Code, as indicated above;
- (6) violate plaintiffs' rights under the Idaho Constitution, as indicated above.
- F. Issue preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting the defendants from confining plaintiffs in the Minidoka County Jail, as well as the Cassia County Jail, or, in the alternative, issue preliminary and permanent injunctions sufficient to rectify the unconstitutional acts and omissions and statutory violations alleged herein, as follows:
- (1) Restraining and prohibiting the defendants from failing to provide plaintiffs with any of the following during their periods of confinements:
  - (a) an adequate classification system;
  - (b) adequate supervision of Jail personnel;
  - (c) complete separation from adult inmates;
  - (d) adequate programming and other activities;
  - (e) an adequate educational program;
  - (f) adequately trained Jail personnel;
  - (g) adequately qualified Jail personnel;
  - (h) adequate monitoring;

(i) adequate rules and regulations for the proper handling and treatment of plaintiffs;

- (j) outdoor recreation or appropriate large
  muscle activity;
- G. Issue preliminary and permanent injunctions restraining and prohibiting all defendants from transferring any plaintiff to any other Jail or any other facility where there exist the conditions complained of herein.
- H. Order the defendants to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the correction of the unlawful policies, practices, acts, and omissions complained of herein, and to submit this plan to the Court and to the attorneys for plaintiffs for review.
- I. Appoint a Special Master to review and insure implementation of the plan submitted by defendants and to protect the rights of plaintiffs during the pendency of this action.
- J. Retain jurisdiction over the defendants until such time as the Court is satisfied that their unlawful policies, practices, acts, and omissions complained of herein no longer exist and will not recur.
- K. Award plaintiffs the cost of this proceeding and attorneys' fees under 42 U.S.C. Section 1988.

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Issue such other and further relief as to this Court seems just and proper. DATED: March 9, 1988. Respectfully submitted, JAMES BELL CAROLE B. SHAUFFER MARK I. SOLER YOUTH LAW CENTER By: James Bell JOSEPH STANZAK By: Joseph Stanzak 1] Attorneys for Plaintiffs