

Mika Tucker

From: ASCC New Claims
Sent: Friday, September 5, 2025 10:43 AM
To: Tawnie Hughes (DOC); Trent Rigdon (DOC); Miles Morgan (DOC); Yolanda Charles (DOC); Taylor Reavis (DOC)
Cc: Mika Tucker; Kathryn Irby
Subject: CLAIM: Jerome Meraz v. ADC, Claim No. 260230
Attachments: Jerome Meraz v. ADC agency ltr 260230.pdf; Jerome Meraz Claim form and supporting docs - 260230.pdf

Dear Ms. Hughes,

Please confirm receipt of the attached claim file. The agency may file its response to this claim electronically by sending it to ascpleadings@arkansas.gov, with a copy to the claimant pursuant to the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure.

Please contact Mika Tucker with any questions.

Thank you,
Caitlin

Caitlin McDaniel
Administrative Specialist II
Arkansas State Claims Commission
101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 410
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 682-1619

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

(501)682-1619
FAX (501)682-2823



KATHRYN IRBY
DIRECTOR

101 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 410
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201-3823

September 5, 2025

Ms. Tawnie Hughes
Mr. Miles Morgan
Mr. Trent Rigdon
Ms. Taylor Reavis
Arkansas Department of Correction
1302 Pike Avenue, Suite C
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114

(via email)

RE: ***Jerome Meraz v. Arkansas Department of Correction***
Claim No. 260230

Dear Ms. Hughes, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Rigdon, and Ms. Reavis,

Enclosed please find a copy of the above-styled claim filed against the Arkansas Department of Correction. Pursuant to the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure, as well as Claims Commission Rule 2.2, you have **thirty days from the date of service** in which to file a responsive pleading.

Your responsive pleading should include your agency number, fund code, appropriation code, cost center, and activity/section/unit/element that this claim should be charged against, if liability is admitted, or if the Claims Commission approves this claim for payment. This information is necessary even if your agency denies liability.

Sincerely,

Mika Tucker

ES: cmcdaniel

cc: Jerome Meraz (ADC [REDACTED]), *Claimant* (w/ encl.)

<u>Note to Claimant or Claimant's counsel:</u> The Claims Commission copied you on this correspondence to provide you with confirmation that your claim has been processed and served upon the respondent agency.

ARKANSAS CLAIMS COMMISSION

(501)682-1619
(501)682-2823 FAX



Questions? Send an email to
ascc.new.claims@arkansas.gov

101 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 410
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3823

Arkansas
State Claims Commission

AUG 05 2025

RECEIVED

CLAIM FORM

1. Claimant Information.

Mr. Meraz Jerome [REDACTED]
(title) (last name) (first name) (ADC Number)
(address)
(city) (state) (zip)

2. Claimant's Legal Counsel. An individual claimant may act as his or her own attorney (which is known as proceeding *pro se*). If a claimant is proceeding *pro se*, this section may be left blank.

Pro Se
(title) (last name) (first name) (email)
(address) (AR bar number)
(city) (state) (zip) (primary phone)

3. State Agency Involved. The Commission can only receive claims against agencies of the State of Arkansas. Please review the Commission's jurisdictional statutes, including Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-204 and Ark. Code Ann. § 21-5-701, for more information. This information is required for any claim filed at the Commission.

*ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
DELTA REGIONAL UNIT*

4. Date of Incident *4-24-25 is when I became aware of it*5. Location of Incident *DELTA REGIONAL UNIT*

6. **Explanation of incident.** Please provide an explanation of your claim, including why you believe the above-listed state agency is liable for your damages under Arkansas law. You may attach additional pages to this form. Please note that a claimant who is an inmate of the Division of Correction or the Division of Community Correction at the time the claim is filed is subject to the page limitations set forth on page 4 of this form (see Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-208(f)).

AS I STATED IN MY GRIEVANCE I HAD 2 THUMB DRIVE FROM THE FEDERAL COURT. "I HAD A TOTAL OF 5 THUMB DRIVES" BUT I WAS ONLY SPEAKING ABOUT THE 2 FROM THE FEDERAL COURT. LT TAYLOR HAD ME VIEW MY THUMB DRIVE IN HIS OFFICE SEPT OR OCT 2024 AFTER THE WESTERN DISTRICT COURT ORDER WARDEN GREY TO MAKE PROVISION FOR ME TO VIEW THE VIDEO FOOTAGE ON IT. SO HE STATING HE GAVE IT BACK TO WARDEN BUDNICK IS NOT CORRECT. THERE SHOULD BE A SIGN OUT LOG FOR THE THUMB DRIVES. I KNOW THERE IS FOR THE USE OF THE COMPUTER. I HAD FIVE THUMB DRIVES. DELTA REGIONAL HAD IT, CONVERT ONE OF THE ONES WITH THE VIDEO FOOTAGE LT TAYLOR HAD IT LAST I SAW IT. I KNOW IT IS MISSING. NO ONE WANTS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT. THATS ONE OF MY EXHIBITS. FOR MY LAW SUIT AGAINST WCDC.

7. **Amount of Damages, if known:** 250,000.00 POLICY PUT IN PLACE
SO THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

IMPORTANT!

A claim filed at the Commission is a lawsuit against a state agency. The Commission is the courthouse for these lawsuits. Please note that Commission staff can answer general questions about the claim process but cannot give legal advice. The Commission follows the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure and has its own rules of practice and procedure. Both sets of rules may be found in your law library.

Delta Unit
Legal Use Only

According To The Review ~~copy~~ OF Legal Documents Form Signed BY LT Taylor I viewed this Thumb drive on 9-26-24 at 3pm Tell 3:03pm This happened in his office on the Jail side of [REDACTED]. This was the last time I saw this Thumb drive. As you can see BCP NO. 87 directing warden greck to allow Plaintiff "Jerome meraz" to view evidence this order was filed Sept. 20th, 2024. in it, it speak of how the courts sent 1 Thumb drive. I wrote tellingg them I couldn't get it to work. They sent a second drive so that 2 from the western district courts then I had 3 drives sent from AAC Risk management Services from a Jennifer Merritt. so I've had a total of 5 Thumb drives here. I recently mailed one to the 8th Circuit court of Appeal + had to write a witness statement of such, so I know only have 3 drives here. But at the time warden greck state I had 4 drives during my Grievance Process so I'm missing one from the Federal Courts.

2B

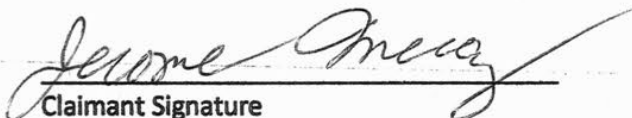
STOP HERE!

This signature page must be completed in the presence of a Notary Public. Do not sign until you are directed to do so by the Notary Public. If there is more than one claimant involved in this claim, each claimant must complete a separate signature page.

If you are an ARKANSAS-LICENSED ATTORNEY submitting a claim on behalf of your client, there is a different signature page that must be used. Please call (501)682-1619 and ask for an attorney signature page.

Signature Page for Claim Filed by an Individual Claimant

The undersigned certifies that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, this claim is not being presented for any improper purpose; this claim is warranted by existing law or by a non-frivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law; and the factual contentions have evidentiary support of, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery.

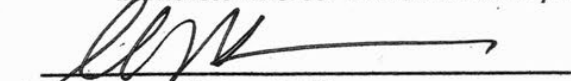

Claimant Signature

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

State of ArkSM AR
County of Ashley

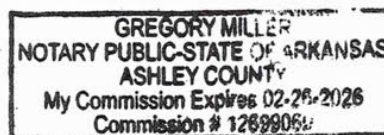
On this the 25 day of July, 2025, before me, the undersigned notary, personally appeared Jerome Mearcy known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to this instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.


Signature of Notary Public

[seal of office]

My Commission Expires: 2-26-2026



UNIT LEVEL GRIEVANCE FORM (Attachment I)

Unit/Center

Name Jerome Meraz

ADC#

Brks # 5Job Assignment Kitchen

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

GRV. # -25-00186Date Received: 5-2-25GRV. Code #: 9004-29-25 (Date) STEP ONE: Informal Resolution4-29-25 (Date) STEP TWO: Formal Grievance (All complaints/concerns should first be handled informally.)5-1-25 If the issue was not resolved during Step One, state why: Warden Grell was
The warden at time of viewing.

(Date) EMERGENCY GRIEVANCE (An emergency situation is one in which you may be subject to a substantial risk of physical harm: emergency grievances are not for ordinary problems that are not of serious nature). If you marked yes, give this completed form to the designated problem-solving staff, who will sign the attached emergency receipt. In an Emergency, state why:

Is this Grievance concerning Medical or Mental Health Services? If yes, circle one: medical or mentalBRIEFLY state your one complaint/concern and be specific as to the complaint, date, place, name of personnel involved and how you were affected. (Please Print): ON 4-24-25 I WAS ALLOWEDTO VIEW THE THUMB DRIVE PERTAINING TO MY LAW SUITS
THAT'S WHEN I NOTICED THAT ONE OF THE TWO THUMB
DRIVE SENT BY THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT IS MISSING
I NOTIFIED CAPT JONES AS SOON AS HE LET ME OUT
OF THE VIEWING ROOM. BOTH DRIVE HAD ADVISED THAT
TOOK A CERTAIN DRIVER FOR IT TO PLAY YOUR LAPTOP DOES
NOT HAVE IT THE THUMB DRIVE HAS IT ON THEIR. LT TAYLOR
TOLD ME THAT DELTA HAD TO GET IT TO INSTALL IT WHEN
HE ALLOWED ME TO VIEW IT. BUT THE THUMB DRIVE THAT IS
THEIR IT WOULD NOT PLAY. SO I'M THINKING THAT IT INSTALL
THE DRIVER ON THE THUMB DRIVE LT TAYLOR HAD. I VIEWED
IT IN H.S. OFFICE 7 OR 8 MONTHS AGO. LT TAYLOR TOLD ME
TO DAY 4-28-25 THAT HE THINKS HE PUT IT IN THE WARDEN'S
OFFICE. ALL I KNOW IS IT IS MISSING.Inmate Signature Jerome MerazDate 4-29-25

If you are harmed/threatened because of your use of the grievance process, report it immediately to the Warden or designee.

THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED OUT BY STAFF ONLY

This form was received on 04-29-25 (date), and determined to be Step One and/or an Emergency GrievanceNO (Yes or No). This form was forwarded to medical or mental health? NO (Yes or No). If yes, name of the person in that department receiving this form: Date PRINT STAFF NAME (PROBLEM SOLVER) Melissa ReynoldsID Number Staff Signature Melissa ReynoldsDate 04-29-25Describe action taken to resolve complaint, including dates: 04/29/25 LT. Taylor
stated after he reviewed video he turn in toWarden, BuonickStaff Signature & Date Returned SA Melissa Reynolds 04-29-25Inmate Signature & Date Received Jerome Meraz 4-30-25This form was received on 04-29-25 (date), pursuant to Step Two. Is it an Emergency? NO (Yes or No).Staff Who Received Step Two Grievance: Date: Action Taken: (Forwarded to Grievance Officer/Warden/Other) Date: If forwarded, provide name of person receiving this form: JUN 2 2025Date: DISTRIBUTION: YELLOW & PINK, Inmate Receipts, PLATE Grievance Officer; ORIGINAL - Given back to Inmate after Completion of Step One and ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGADCF-15  www.acicatalog.com

DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S DECISION

INMATE NAME: Meraz, Jerome M.

ADC #: [REDACTED]

GRIEVANCE#: [REDACTED] 25-00186

CHIEF DEPUTY/DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S DECISION:

In your appeal dated 4/29/25, you stated, "On 4-24-25 I was allowed to view The Thumb drive Pertaining to my lawsuits That's when I Noticed That one of The Two Thumb drive sent by The Federal District Court is missing I Notified Capt Jones as soon as he Let me out of The viewing room. Both drive had a video That Took a certain driver For It To Play your Laptop Does Not have IT The Thumb drive has it on Their. Lt Taylor Told me That Delta had to get It To install IT When he allowed me to view it. But The Thumb drive That is Their it would Not Play. So Im Thinking That IT installed The driver on The Thumb drive Lt Taylor had. I viewed it in his office 7 or 8 months ago. LT Taylor Told me Today 4-28-25 That he Thinks he Put IT in The Wardens office. all I know is IT is missing."

On 6/19/25, the warden responded, "Your grievance dated 5-29-25 claiming that one of the two thumb drives sent by the Federal District Court was missing has been reviewed. Staff indicate that after you viewed these thumb drives they were turned into Warden Budnik. All thumb drives, memory sticks, etc... that are sent to inmates are forwarded to Records and placed in inmates' file. You have not provided any evidence to substantiate your claim. Therefore, your grievance is without merit."

Your appeal was received on 6/25/25. After a review of your appeal and supporting documentation, I concur with the warden's response. You stated you saw one (1) of two (2) thumb drives. According to Warden Gray, there are a total of 4 thumb drives in your institutional file. This is evident that you didn't see all thumb drives. Therefore, I find your appeal without merit.

Appeal Denied.

DIRECTOR

Aundrea Cufloger 7/14/2025

Please be advised that if you appeal this decision to the U.S. District Court, a copy of this Chief Deputy/Deputy/Assistant Director's Decision must be attached to any petition or complaint or the Court may dismiss your case without notice. You may also be subject to paying filing fees pursuant to the Prison Litigation Act of 1995.

WARDEN'S/CENTER SUPERVISOR'S DECISION

INMATE NAME: Meraz, Jerome M.

ADC #: [REDACTED]

GRIEVANCE #: 25-00186

WARDEN/CENTER SUPERVISOR'S DECISION:

Your grievance dated 5-29-25 claiming that one of the two thumb drives sent by the Federal District Court was missing has been reviewed. Staff indicate that after you viewed these thumb drives they were turned into Warden Budnik. All thumb drives, memory sticks, etc... that are sent to inmates are forwarded to Records and placed in inmates' file. You have not provided any evidence to substantiate your claim. Therefore, your grievance is without merit.

SIGNATURE OF WARDEN/SUPERVISOR OR DESIGNEE

Warden M. Gray

6/19/2025

Date

WARDEN

Title

INMATE'S APPEAL

If you are not satisfied with this response, you may appeal this decision within five working days by filling in the information requested below and mailing it to the appropriate Chief Deputy/Deputy/Assistant Director along with the Unit Level Grievance Form. Keep in mind that you are appealing the decision to the original grievance. Do not list additional issues, which are not part of your original grievance as they will not be addressed. Your appeal statement is limited to what you write in the space provided below.

WHY DO YOU DISAGREE WITH THE ABOVE RESPONSE? Yes my Thumb Drives are kept in Records, But The Thumb drive I'm speaking About has A video File From ADC & Takes a special Player that was also on that drive. I was unable to view it on the cop too provided by ADC. So ADC Had IT convert my Thumb drive to play it. I viewed it in LT Taylor Office I believe around Oct of 24. That's The last Time I've seen it was in his possession. Warden Gray was The warden Because she wouldn't

INMATE SIGNATURE

Jerome Meraz

6-19-25

Date

Allow me to view those drive tell The courts told her they had sent it. Then The courts had to issue an order making her & ADC make provision for me to view this drive & now its missing. Check The log for Th LT Taylor had my drives.

If appealing, please submit both the Unit Level Grievance Form (Attachment I) and the Warden's Decision (Attachment III) Last Time

RECEIVED

JUN 25 2025

INMATE GRIEVANCES SUPERVISOR
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Orders on Motions

5:23-cv-05044-TLB-MEF Meraz
v. Mulvaney, et al

CASREF,SMG

U. S. District Court

Western District of Arkansas

Notice of Electronic Filing

The following transaction was entered on 9/27/2024 at 9:10 AM CDT and filed on 9/27/2024

Case Name: Meraz v. Mulvaney, et al

Case Number: 5:23-cv-05044-TLB-MEF

Filer:

Document Number: 89(No document attached)

Docket Text:

TEXT ONLY ORDER finding as moot [ECF No. 86] Plaintiff's Motion to view video evidence. In response to this Motion, the Court entered an Order [ECF No. 87] directing the Warden to allow Plaintiff to view the video evidence. A notice of compliance has now been filed [ECF No. 88] indicating Plaintiff did in fact view the video evidence. No further action is required of the Court.

Signed by Honorable Mark E. Ford on September 27, 2024. (smg)

5:23-cv-05044-TLB-MEF Notice has been electronically mailed to:

Jeffrey L. Singleton jsingleton@wlj.com, mlawrence@wlj.com, mrussell@wlj.com

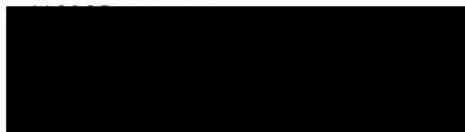
Jennifer L. Merritt jmerritt@arcounties.org, apursell@arcounties.org, ekellar@arcounties.org, ffitzgerald@arcounties.org

JaNan Arnold Thomas jthomas@arcounties.org, apursell@arcounties.org, earcher@arcounties.org, ekellar@arcounties.org, ffitzgerald@arcounties.org

Shelby Nicole Howlett showlett@wlj.com, ljones@wlj.com

5:23-cv-05044-TLB-MEF Notice has been delivered by other means to:

Jerome M Meraz



5:23-cv-05044-TLB-MEF Meraz
v. Mulvaney, et al

CASREF,SMG

U. S. District Court
Western District of Arkansas

Notice of Electronic Filing

The following transaction was entered on 9/27/2024 at 8:45 AM CDT and filed on 9/27/2024

Case Name: Meraz v. Mulvaney, et al
Case Number: 5:23-cv-05044-TLB-MEF
Filer:
Document Number: 88

Docket Text:
NOTICE to the Court re [87] Order regarding digital evidence; Plaintiff viewed evidence on 9/26/24. (ria)

5:23-cv-05044-TLB-MEF Notice has been electronically mailed to:

Jeffrey L. Singleton jsingleton@wlj.com, mlawrence@wlj.com, mrussell@wlj.com

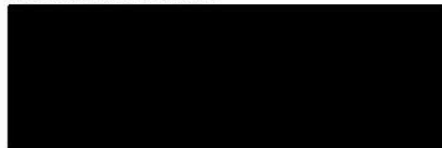
Jennifer L. Merritt jmerritt@arcounties.org, apursell@arcounties.org, ekellar@arcounties.org, ffitzgerald@arcounties.org

JaNan Arnold Thomas jthomas@arcounties.org, apursell@arcounties.org, earcher@arcounties.org, ekellar@arcounties.org, ffitzgerald@arcounties.org

Shelby Nicole Howlett showlett@wlj.com, ljones@wlj.com

5:23-cv-05044-TLB-MEF Notice has been delivered by other means to:

Jerome M Meraz



The following document(s) are associated with this transaction:

Document description:Main Document

Original filename:n/a

Electronic document Stamp:

[STAMP dcecfStamp_ID=1094675213 [Date=9/27/2024] [FileNumber=2508966-0
] [0159e9fa4e0b26078c48b27a660b1fa197ef7afb802c341af442545854861afe796

REVIEW OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS

On 9-26-24, I, Janeth Ty, have in custody and signed for legal
 (Date) (Staff Name)

documents/ video to be reviewed by Jerome Mera
 (Inmate Name)

Received by: [Signature]
 (STAFF SIGNATURE)

I, Jerome Mera have been allowed to review the documents/videos
 (Inmate Name)

Date: 9-26-24 Review Time began @ 3 PM : ending time @ 3:03 PM

Supervised during the review of Documents/video: Janeth Ty
 (Staff Name)

INMATE MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIME DURING THE REVIEW OF THESE LEGAL DOCUMENTS/VIDEO.



SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS
GOVERNOR

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

1302 Pike Avenue, Suite C
North Little Rock, AR 72114



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

September 27, 2024

Via email: fay_info@arwd.uscourts.gov

Honorable Mark E. Ford
John Paul Hammerschmidt Federal Building
35 East Mountain, Room 510
Fayetteville, AR 72701

FILED

United States District Court
Western District of Arkansas

September 27 2024
Office of the Clerk

Rc: Jerome M. Meraz v. Corporal Tom Mulvaney et al.
Case No. 5:23-cv-05044

Dear Judge Ford,

Please find this letter and attachment to serve as Notice to the court that Inmate Jerome M. Meraz's review of the video and documents responsive to the Court's September 20, 2024 Order is complete.

Sincerely,

Miles S. Morgan
Deputy General Counsel
Arkansas Department of Corrections

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
FAYETTEVILLE DIVISION

JEROME M. MERAZ

PLAINTIFF

v.

Civil No. 5:23-cv-05044

CORPORAL TOM MULVANEY,
Washington County Detention Center (WCDC);
CORPORAL CORLEY, WCDC;
JAILER CAMRON STOUT, WCDC;
CORPORAL DOMINICK NUNZIATO, WCDC;
CORPORAL BENJAMIN VELASCO, WCDC;
CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER DRUMWRIGHT, WCDC;
and SERGEANT RANDELL FULLER

DEFENDANTS

ORDER

TO: WARDEN GREY
Delta Regional Unit
Arkansas Division of Correction
880 Gaines
Dermot, AR 71638-9505

By Order (ECF No. 76) entered on July 3, 2024, a Subpoena was issued to the [REDACTED] of the Arkansas Division of Correction (ADC) to supply the Court with evidence from an attack Plaintiff suffered there on June 16, 2024, at 2:00 a.m., in Barracks 3, downstairs sleeping area. The Subpoena was issued for "[a]ny video, photographs, statements, or incident reports regarding an attack on Inmate Jerome M. Meraz" occurring on the identified date and approximate time. On August 5, 2024, a DVD was received from the ADC containing the requested evidence. A copy of the DVD was put on a thumb drive and provided to the Plaintiff.

On August 19, 2024, Plaintiff submitted a Motion (ECF No. 82) saying that neither file on the thumb drive would open. By Order (ECF No. 83) entered on August 27, 2024, a new thumb drive was prepared and sent to the Plaintiff. The thumb drive contained installation instructions.

Plaintiff was advised that to view the video evidence a separate viewer must be installed. The viewer was contained on the thumb drive.

On September 19, 2024, Plaintiff filed another Motion (ECF No. 86) saying the officer who was helping him to view the material could not "figure out how to get it to work." The Plaintiff additionally states the new Warden, Warden Grey, could not find any paperwork to indicate the thumb drive had been sent by the Court. Further, Warden Grey was herself unable to view the content of the thumb drive.

As previously stated, the viewer and files were provided by the [REDACTED] of the ADC. The Court finds it difficult to believe that staff at the [REDACTED] are unable to assist Plaintiff in viewing evidence it produced in response to a Subpoena issued by the Court.

For these reasons, Warden Grey is **ORDERED** to allow Plaintiff to view the video evidence contained on the thumb drive. If no staff member with sufficient technological knowledge can upload the viewer and play the files on the thumb drive, then Warden Grey is referred to the Order directing issuance of the Subpoena (ECF No. 76) to see what information and records the [REDACTED] was required to produce and to allow Plaintiff to view the evidence on the facility's own system. Once Plaintiff has successfully viewed the evidence, either Warden Grey or the Plaintiff should file a Notice advising the Court that the review is completed.

The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to serve a copy of this Order on Warden Grey by certified mail return receipt requested. The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to send a copy of ECF No. 76 with this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 20th day of September 2024.

/s/ *Mark E. Ford*

HON. MARK E. FORD

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE



ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION
101 E. CAPITOL AVE., SUITE 410
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3823

RETURN TO SENDER

Arkansas
State Claims Commission

SEP 12 2025

RECEIVED



quodient
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
IM1
\$001.32⁹
09/05/2025 ZIP 72201
043M31225072

US POSTAGE

Jerome Meraz (ADC [REDACTED])

7163883803
72201>3824

NIXIE 722 F E L 0009/10/25
RETURN TO SENDER
NOT DELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED
UNABLE TO FORWARD
800 72201382410 *0255-07221-06-21
[POSTNET]

Mika Tucker

From: Miles Morgan (DOC)
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 8:50 AM
To: ASCC Pleadings
Cc: Yolanda Charles (DOC)
Subject: Jerome Meraz v. ADC 260230
Attachments: Answer-Meraz 260230.pdf

Answer.

Thanks,



MILES S. MORGAN
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1302 Pike Avenue, Suite C
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114
Phone: (501) 682-9540 (Office)
Miles.S.Morgan@doc.arkansas.gov

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

JEROME MERAZ (ADC [REDACTED])

CLAIMANT

v.

NO. 260230

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,
DIVISION OF CORRECTION

RESPONDENT

ANSWER

COMES NOW the Respondent, Arkansas Department of Corrections, and for its Answer, states and alleges as follows:

1. Respondent denies liability in this claim and asserts it will hold the Claimant to strict proof on each allegation unless admitted by Respondent. Respondent reserves the right to plead further upon completion of an investigation by internal affairs, if warranted, and requests the matter be held in abeyance until the investigation is complete.
2. The applicable account information required by the Commission is:

a. Agency number: 0480	b. Cost Center: HCA 0100
c. Internal Order: 340301	d. Fund Center: 509
3. The Respondent states that the Arkansas State Claims Commission does not have jurisdiction to hear this matter pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 19-10-204.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons cited above, the Respondent prays that the claim be dismissed with prejudice and that Claimant take nothing or, in the alternative, that the matter be held in abeyance until completion of an investigation by Internal Affairs if warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Miles S. Morgan

Miles S. Morgan Ark. Bar No. 2017049

Arkansas Department of Corrections

1302 Pike Avenue, Suite C

North Little Rock, AR 72114

Miles.S.Morgan@doc.arkansas.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the above pleading has been served this 23rd day of September 2025, on the Claimant by placing a copy of the same in the U. S. Mail, regular postage to:

Jerome Meraz (ADC [REDACTED])
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

/s/ Miles S. Morgan

Miles S. Morgan

Mika Tucker

From: Misty Scott on behalf of ASCC Pleadings
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:05 AM
To: Tawnie Hughes (DOC); Miles Morgan (DOC); Trent Rigdon (DOC); Taylor Reavis (DOC)
Cc: ASCC Pleadings; Yolanda Charles (DOC); Mika Tucker
Subject: CORR: Jerome Meraz v. ADC, Claim No. 260230
Attachments: Jerome Meraz v. ADC.pdf

Dear Counselors:

Please see attached. Contact Mika Tucker with any questions.

Thank you,

Misty

Misty Scott
Arkansas State Claims Commission

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

(501) 682-1619
FAX (501) 682-2823



KATHRYN IRBY
DIRECTOR

101 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 410
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
72201-3823

October 21, 2025

Mr. Jerome Meraz (ADC [REDACTED])
[REDACTED]

RE: *Jerome Meraz v. Arkansas Division of Correction*
Claim No. 260230

Dear Mr. Meraz,

Please be advised that the Arkansas Division of Correction (the "Respondent") in the above-styled claim filed an Answer disputing liability. When liability is contested by the Respondent, you have two options:

- 1) You may request a hearing before the Arkansas State Claims Commission (the "Claims Commission") in writing within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of this correspondence.
- 2) You may do nothing. If this office does not receive any communication from you within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of this correspondence, your claim will be dismissed by the Claims Commission for failure to respond.

Please note that even if you request a hearing on your claim, the filing of a dispositive motion (such as a Motion to Dismiss or a Motion for Summary Judgment) by the Respondent could result in dismissal of your claim before hearing. The failure of a party to file a timely response is sufficient basis for the granting of a motion by the Claims Commission.

It is your responsibility to know when responses are due to any motions or other pleadings filed in your claim. It is also your responsibility to notify both the Claims Commission and the Respondent if you have a change in mailing address.

Sincerely,

Mika Tucker

ES: msscott

cc: Tawnie Hughes, Miles Morgan, Trent Rigdon, and Taylor Reavis *counsel for Respondent* (via email)

Before The ARKANSAS State Claims Commission
 Jerome Meraz [REDACTED]

V

No: 260230

ARKANSAS Department of Correction
 Division of Correction

Arkansas
 State Claims Commission

OCT 25 2025

RECEIVED

Response To Answer

Comes now Jerome Meraz a Pro Se
 Inmate. in response to Defendants Response.
 I can only respond best I can because I
 have not received the copy with my claim
 # writ back from the commission so I
 do not know what the response is specifically
 too. But the commission does have jurisdiction
 to everything I've sent them as they are
 over all state agency & their policy & pro-
 ceders. As I'm sure this is in reference
 to some sort of policy violation or lack of
 a policy. The commission has jurisdiction

Respectfully
 Jerome Meraz



ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION
101 E. CAPITOL AVE., SUITE 410
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3823

LITTLE ROCK AR 720

22 OCT 2025AM 4 L

Arkansas
State Claims Commission

OCT 27 2025

RECEIVED

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FIRST-CLASS MAIL
IMI
\$000.74
10/21/2025 ZIP 72201
043M31225072



Mr. Jerome Meraz (ADC [REDACTED])

260230

722 FE 1 0010/25/25

RETURN TO SENDER
DELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED
UNABLE TO FORWARD

BC: 72201382410 12057-03304-22-19

71698-969990
7/2201>3824

Mika Tucker

From: Misty Scott on behalf of ASCC Pleadings
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2025 2:45 PM
To: Tasha Tidwell (DOC); Miles Morgan (DOC)
Cc: ASCC Pleadings; Yolanda Charles (DOC); Mika Tucker
Subject: ORDER: Jerome Meraz v. ADC, Claim No. 260230
Attachments: Jerome Meraz v. ADC .pdf; Jerome Meraz-order.pdf

Ms. Tidwell and Mr. Morgan:

Please see attached. Contact Mika Tucker with any questions.

Thank you,

Misty

Misty Scott
Arkansas State Claims Commission

ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

(501) 682-1619
FAX (501) 682-2823



KATHRYN IRBY
DIRECTOR

101 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 410
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
72201-3823

December 11, 2025

Mr. Jerome Meraz (ADC [REDACTED])
[REDACTED]

Ms. Tasha Tidwell
Mr. Miles Morgan
Arkansas Division of Correction
1302 Pike Avenue, Suite C
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114

(via email)

Re: ***Jerome Meraz v. Arkansas Division of Correction***
Claim No. 260230

Dear Mr. Meraz, Ms. Tidwell, and Mr. Morgan:

Enclosed please find an Order entered on December 4, 2025, by the Arkansas State Claims Commission. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Mika Tucker

ES: msscott

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION

JEROME MERAZ (ADC [REDACTED])

CLAIMANT

V.

CLAIM NO. 260230

ARKANSAS DIVISION OF
CORRECTION

RESPONDENT

ORDER

Now before the Arkansas State Claims Commission (the “Commission”) is the claim filed by Jerome Meraz (the “Claimant”) against Arkansas Division of Correction (the “Respondent”).

Respondent filed an answer denying liability.

The Commission sent correspondence to Claimant on October 21, 2025, advising that Respondent recommended that the claim be denied and giving Claimant fifteen (15) calendar days to request a hearing. In that correspondence, the Commission also advised Claimant that, if the Commission did not receive any communication from Claimant within the specified time frame, Claimant’s claim would be dismissed for failure to respond. The Claimant did not file a response to the Commission’s October 21, 2025, correspondence within the specified time frame.¹

As such, the Commission hereby unanimously DISMISSES this claim for Claimant’s failure to prosecute the claim.

¹ The Commission’s correspondence mailed to the address provided by Claimant in this claim was returned marked “not deliverable[,] unable to forward[.]”

IT IS SO ORDERED.



ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION
Dee Holcomb



ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION
Henry Kinslow, Chair



ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION
Sylvester Smith

DATE: December 4, 2025

Notices which may apply to this claim

- (1) A party has forty (40) days from transmission of this Order to file a Motion for Reconsideration or a Notice of Appeal with the Commission. Ark. Code Ann. § 25-44-211(a)(1). If a Motion for Reconsideration is denied, that party then has twenty (20) days from the transmission of the denial of the Motion for Reconsideration to file a Notice of Appeal with the Commission. Ark. Code Ann. § 25-44-211(a)(1)(B)(ii). A decision of the Commission may only be appealed to the General Assembly. Ark. Code Ann. § 25-44-211(a)(3).
- (2) If a Claimant is awarded \$15,000.00 or less by the Commission at hearing, that award is held forty (40) days from the date of disposition before payment will be processed to allow either party to utilize its remedies under Ark. Code Ann. § 25-44-211(a). Note: This does not apply to agency admissions of liability and negotiated settlement agreements.
- (3) Awards or negotiated settlement agreements of more than \$15,000.00 are referred to the General Assembly for approval and authorization to pay. Ark. Code Ann. § 25-44-215(b).

IN The ARKANSAS STATE CLAIM commission

Jerome meraz [REDACTED]

Arkansas
State Claims Commission

DEC 22 2025

RECEIVED

✓ claim no: 260230

ARKANSAS DEPT OF CORRECTIONS

MOTION TO APPEAL

comes know Jerome meraz a Pro Se
Inmate. ASKING THIS commission TO Reopen
Claim no 260230 or Forward This To A Higher
Authority AS ALL I ever Received was The
Answer From The ARKANSAS DEPT OF CORRECTION
Which I Responded TO. I ALSO wrote TO MIKA
Tucker SAYING That I had never Received any
Thing From This commission on This Claim Several
Times & GOT NO Response AS you can see From
The Photo copie of The Letter with The order in
IT I am at The address on File.

Respectfully

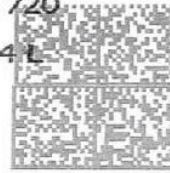
Jerome meraz

1



STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION
CAPITOL AVE., SUITE 410
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3823

LITTLE ROCK AR 720
13 DEC 2025 PM 4:1



quadiant
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
IMI
\$000.74⁰
12/11/2025 ZIP 72201
043M31225072

US POSTAGE

RECEIVED

DEC 16 2025

Mr. Jerome Meraz (ADC [REDACTED])
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

71603-149590



Claim no 260230