

Rule 3.1

COMPLAINTS BY PRISONERS

(a) **Filing Requirements.** All complaints and applications to proceed in forma pauperis by prisoners shall be signed and legibly written or typewritten on forms approved by the Court and in accordance with the instructions provided with the forms unless the assigned District Judge or Magistrate Judge, in his or her discretion, finds that the complaint or application is understandable and that it conforms with federal and local requirements for prisoner actions. Copies of the forms and instructions shall be provided by the Clerk upon request. The assigned District Judge or Magistrate Judge may strike or dismiss complaints or applications which do not conform substantively or procedurally with federal and local requirements for prisoner actions.

(b) **Assignment of Judicial Officer.** Once a complaint by a prisoner is assigned to a District Judge or Magistrate Judge, any future pleadings lodged or filed by the prisoner shall be assigned to the same District Judge or Magistrate Judge to whom the earlier case was assigned, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.