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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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MIRIAM MENDIOLA-MARTINEZ, Plaintiff,

v.

JOSEPH M. ARPAIO, MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF; MARICOPA

COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE; MARICOPA MEDICAL CENTER; JANE DOE OFFICERS 1-5, in their individual

capacities; JOHN DOE OFFICERS 1-5 in

their individual capacities; JANE DOE

DOCTORS 1-5, in their individual

capacities; JOHN DOE DOCTORS 1-5, in their individual capacities; JANE DOE

NURSES 1-5, in their individual

capacities; and JOHN DOE NURSES 1-5,

in their individual capacities, Defendants.

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Case No.

COMPLAINT

(Jury Trial Demanded)

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, Miriam Mendiola, by her attorney, Joy Bertrand, to

allege this complaint against Joseph M. Arpaio, the Maricopa County Sheriff; the

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (hereinafter MCSO); the Maricopa County Medical Center; Jane Doe Officers 1-5; John Doe Officers 1-5, Jane Doe Doctors 1-5; John Doe Doctors 1-5; Jane Doe Nurses 1-5; and John Doe Nurses 1-5.

PARTIES

- 1. The Plaintiff, Miriam Mendiola-Martinez, is an Hispanic female, who presently resides in Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 2. Between October 23, 2009 and December 25, 2009, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was detained as a prisoner in either the Estrella Jail or Fourth Avenue Jail in Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 3. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez currently is a citizen of Mexico.
- 4. Maricopa County is a political subdivision of the State of Arizona.
- 5. MCSO is a public law enforcement agency run by Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 6. Joseph M. Arpaio, the Maricopa County Sheriff, oversees the operations of the Maricopa County jails and is responsible for and accountable for ultimate decisions of the Office.
- 7. The Maricopa County Medical Center is a public hospital run by Maricopa County, Arizona through the Maricopa Integrated Health System.
- 8. On information and belief, the Maricopa County Medical Center is the hospital to which prisoners in the Maricopa County jails are taken for medical care.
- 9. Jane Doe Officers and Johns Does Officers 1-5 are either Maricopa County Sheriff's Deputies or Maricopa County Corrections Officers, to be identified in the course of discovery, who, *inter alia*, shackled Ms. Mendiola-Martinez while she was in

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labor and as she recovered from a Cesarean-section, forced her to walk (shackled) to and from a transport van with no assistance, and/or refused to give her adequate pain medication as she recovered from her surgery.

10. John Doe Doctors 1-5, Jane Doe Doctors 1-5, John Doe Nurses 1-5, Jane Doe Nurses 1-5 are Maricopa Medical Center physicians or nurses, to be identified in the course of discovery, who, inter alia, treated Ms. Mendiola-Martinez between December 20, 2009 and December 23, 2009 and allowed the shackling Ms. Mendiola-Martinez while she was in labor and as she recovered from a Cesarean-section.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 11. This Court has original jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 42 USC §§ 1331, 1343, and/or 1367. This action arises under the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Arizona, under federal and state law, and under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1983. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez seeks declaratory and/or injunctive relief, compensatory and punitive damages, attorney fees and costs, and such other relief that may be available to her.
- 12. Venue in this district is proper under 42 U.S.C. 1391. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants in this matter, the underlying acts of this complaint took place in the District of Arizona, and the Plaintiff resides in this District.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

I. The Arrest and Detention

13. On October 23, 2009, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was arrested by the City of Scottsdale Police Department.

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14.	That same day, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was booked into the Estrella Jail in
Marico	opa County, Arizona on charges of identity theft.

- 15. Pursuant to the Arizona Bailable Offenses Act, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was held without bond.
- 16. But for the requirements of the Arizona Bailable Offenses Act, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez would have been able to be released either on her own recognizance or upon the posting of a bond while her case was pending.
- 17. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was in her sixth month of pregnancy.
- Upon information and belief, at the time of her arrest, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez 18. had developed gestational diabetes and gestational hypertension.
- 19. Upon information and belief, MCSO officers never made a determination that Ms. Mendiola-Martinez presented a substantial flight risk or a security threat to the safety and security of MCSO staff.
- 20. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez could not reasonably be considered a security risk. She was held on a charge that involved no violence, no narcotics, and no gang allegations.
- 21. On December 10, 2009, pursuant to a plea agreement with the State of Arizona, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez pled guilty to solicitation to commit forgery.
- 22. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' case was set for sentencing on December 24, 2011.

II. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' Prenatal Diet While Incarcerated

Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was told by jail staff that she would receive a "special" 23. pregnancy diet.

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- 24. On information and belief, this "special" pregnancy diet meals consisted of items such as two slices or cheese or ham, two slices of bread, indistinguishable cooked vegetables, and occasionally a piece of fruit. She was also given two, small cartons of milk each day.
- 25. On information and belief, this "special" pregnancy diet also entailed a pill that was represented to be a vitamin.
- 26. When Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was transported to court, she was given no food during the day.
- 27. In one instance, a MCSO deputy or corrections officer taunted Ms. Mendiola-Martinez and other inmates with his food, after telling them there was no food for them.
- II. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' Labor and Delivery
- 28. On December 20, 2009, two weeks before her expected delivery date, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez began to have labor contractions.
- 29. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was transported to the Maricopa Medical Center, shackled at her ankles.
- 30. The staff at Maricopa Medical Center then returned her to the jail, saying she was not in "active labor."
- 31. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was shackled while being transported back to the jail.
- 32. By December 21, 2009, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' pain increased through the night.
- 33. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez had been left in the jail visitation room, in extreme pain.

34.	Because guards had previously ignored her attempts to speak to them in
Span	ish, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez asked an English-speaking person in the visitation
room	to tell the guards that she needed assistance.

- 35. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was again transported to the Maricopa Medical Center, this time, unshackled.
- 36. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez gave birth to her son *via* Cesarean section.
- 37. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was not allowed to nurse or even hold her son after he was delivered.
- 38. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was shackled before and after the surgery.
- 39. While recovering from her surgery, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was guarded by a male Sheriff's Office deputy or correctional officer, whose identity will be determined in the course of discovery, who insisted that she be shackled to the hospital bed.
- 40. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was in a great deal of pain after the surgery.
- 41. The shackles on Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' feet were very painful.
- 42. On December 23, 2011, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was discharged from the hospital.
- 43. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was not given a wheelchair to assist her from the hospital.
- 44. Wearing only a hospital gown, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was forced to walk through the hospital, with her hands and feet shackled.
- 45. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez began to bleed and could do nothing about it.

- 46. Ms. Mendiola was not provided with a breast pump to safely and hygienically remove the breast milk she produced while she was separated from her infant son.
- 47. Once she was outside and entering the Sheriff's Office car, a nurse ran up from the hospital and scolded the Sheriff's Office deputy or correctional officer, whose identity will be determined in the course of discovery, for taking Ms. Mendiola-Martinez so quickly and without Ms. Mendiola-Martinez receiving her pain medication and discharge paperwork.
- 48. The John Doe deputy or correctional officer then chained Ms. Mendiola-Martinez again and forced Ms. Mendiola-Martinez to walk back to the nurse's station.
- 49. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was in so much pain she could hardly walk.
- 50. Shackled at her hands and ankles, with a bleeding surgery wound, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was returned to the Estrella Jail.
- 51. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez spent her nights in the jail following her hospital discharge in pain and crying.
- 52. When asked about the shackling of MCSO inmates in labor at Maricopa Medical Center, Michael Murphy, spokesman for the Maricopa Medical Center, stated that the Maricopa Medical Center doctors and staff, "defer to law enforcement."
- 53. International standards stipulate that jails and prisons should use restraints only when they are required as a precaution against escape or to prevent an inmate from injuring him/herself or other people or damaging property. In every case, due regard must be given to an inmate's individual history.

- 54. Established international standards provide that the routine use of restraints on pregnant women is cruel, in humane, and degrading treatment, and given medical and other factors impeding pregnant or birthing women from attempting escape or becoming violent, the presumption must be that no restraints should be applied. A woman's privacy and dignity must be respected during labor and birth.
- 55. International standards further provide:
 - Leg irons, shackles, belly chains or handcuffs behind the body may not be used at any time during pregnancy.
 - For pregnant women in the third trimester no restraints may be applied, including during transportation.
 - Under no circumstances may restraints of any kind be used on a woman in labor or while she is giving birth.
 - A female correctional officer should accompany the woman during transport to the hospital for prenatal checkups, as well as for the delivery itself, and should remain immediately outside the room during checkups, and a woman's labor and delivery, unless the woman wishes otherwise. The officer should be trained to be sensitive to the medical emotional and medical issues of pregnancy and childbirth.
 - No restraints should be applied while a woman remains in the hospital during recovery, and all efforts should be made to afford the mother reasonable access to the baby without impeding her movements by restraints. Restraints should not be applied during transportation back to the detention facility.
- 56. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists opposes the shackling of female prisoners during and immediately after labor.
- 57. The American Medical Association opposes the shackling of women in labor or recuperating from delivery:
 - unless there are compelling grounds to believe that the inmate presents: An immediate and serious threat of harm to herself, staff or others; or a substantial flight risk and cannot be reasonably contained by other means. If an inmate who

is in labor or who is delivering her baby is restrained, only the least restrictive restraints necessary to ensure safety and security shall be used.

American Medical Association Resolution 203, adopted 2010.1

- 59. The Arizona Department of Corrections eliminated the practice of shackling women in labor or in postpartum recovery in 2003.
- 60. In 2007, the United States Marshal's Service eliminated the practice of shackling women in labor.
- 61. In 2008, the Federal Bureau of Prisons eliminated the practice of shackling women in labor.

III. Jail Conditions

- 62. In or about September 2008, the Maricopa County jails lost their accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.
- 63. On October 22, 2008, the Honorable Neil V. Wake found that the food given to inmates in the Maricopa County Jails constituted "current and ongoing violation of pretrial detainees' federal right to adequate nutrition." (*Graves v. Arpaio*, Arizona District Court Number 77CV479, ECF Doc. 1634 at 71, ECF Doc. 1635 at 13)
- 64. Regarding jail nutrition, Judge Wake ordered that the Maricopa County Jails provide food to inmates that meets or exceeds the dietary allowances established by the United States Department of Agriculture. (77CV479 ECF Doc. 1634 at 65)
- 65. Judge Wake further ordered that the Maricopa County jails provide to inmates medically necessary diets. (77CV479 ECF Doc. 1635)

 $^{^{1}\} Available\ at\ http://www.ama-assn.org/assets/meeting/2010a/a10-annotated-b.pdf\ .$

1	66.	Regarding medical care in Maricopa County jails, Judge Wake found "ongoing
2	violat	ion[s] of the federal right to adequate medical care." (Id. at 43, 50)
3 4	67.	Judge Wake ordered that the Maricopa County jails provide all prescription
5	medic	cations to inmates without interruption. (77CV479 ECF Doc. 1635 at 3)
6	IV.	The United States Department of Justice Findings
7 8	68.	On December 15, 2011, the United States Department of Justice issued the
9	findin	gs of the investigation it began in June 2008 in a letter addressed to Maricopa
10	Coun	ty Attorney William Montgomery.1
11	70.	In that, letter, the Justice Department stated, inter alia:
12		MCSO operates its jails in a manner that discriminates against its limited English proficient ("LEP") Latino inmates. Specifically, we find that MCSO,
14 15 16		through the actions of its deputies, detention officers, supervisory staff, and command staff, routinely punishes Latino LEP inmates for failing to understand commands given in English and denies them critical services provided to the other inmates, all in violation of Title VI and its implementing regulations.
17	Decem	lber 15, 2011 Letter at 2.
18	71.	With regard to jail practices, the Justice Department found:
19 20		MCSO fosters and perpetuates discriminatory police and jail practices by failing to operate in accordance with basic policing and correctional practices and by failing to develop and implement policing and correctional safeguards against
21 22		discrimination in such areas as training, supervision, and accountability systems.
23	Id. at	4.
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29	<u>11.pdf</u>	Available at http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/spl/documents/mcso_findletter_12-15- .

72. The Justice Department also found, "The pervasive nature of MCSO's discriminatory treatment of Latinos reflects a general culture of bias within MCSO." *Id*.

- 73. The Justice Department found that the "pervasive culture of discriminatory bias against Latinos at MCSO. . . reaches the highest levels of the Agency." *Id.* at 10-11.
- 74. The Justice Department found this culture has been "nurtured" by Sheriff Arpaio. *Id*.

PLAINTIFF'S CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS FOR INTERFERING WITH PLAINTIFF'S RIGHTS UNDER 42 USC §§ 1981 and 1983

COUNT ONE VIOLATIONS OF THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT (Deliberate Indifference to Serious Medical Needs)

- 75. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez realleges Paragraphs 1 through 74 above as if fully realleged herein.
- As applied to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez, MCSO's practice and policy of requiring mechanical restraints on pregnant women during transport to the hospital and while in labor and on new mothers during post-partum recovery, in the absence of a specific and individualized assessment that a laboring or post-partum woman presents a substantial flight risk or extraordinary threat to the safety of staff or other detainees, constituted a policy of deliberate indifference to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' serious medical needs.
- 77. As applied to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez, MCSO's practice and policy of denying her proper pregnancy nutrition, a violation of Judge Wake's order, constituted a policy of deliberate indifference to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' serious medical needs.

78. To the extent the actions alleged above were not customary or in compliance with MCSO practice and policy, then John Doe Officers 1-5 and Jane Doe Officers 1-5 are liable in their individual capacities, because a reasonable officer in their positions would have known that shackling a laboring and post-partum woman and denying her medical supplies and post-operative pain medications, all contrary to medical orders and/or standards, constitute deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.

- 79. To the extent the actions alleged above were not customary or in compliance with Maricopa Medical Center practice and policy, then John Doe Doctors 1-5, Jane Doe Doctors 1-5, John Doe Nurses 1-5, Jane Doe Nurses 1-5, are liable in their individual capacities, because a reasonable medical professional in their positions would have known that shackling a laboring and post-partum woman, thereby constituting deliberate indifference to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' serious medical needs.
- As applied to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez, MCSO 's practice and policy of shackling women in labor and post-delivery, prohibiting post-partum mothers from using a medically recommended and related supplies, and denying a post-partum her prescribed pain medication constitutes a policy of deliberate indifference to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' serious medical needs.
- As applied to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez, the Maricopa Medical Center's practice and policy of "deferring to law enforcement" regarding the MCSO policy of shackling women in labor and post-delivery, demonstrates an ongoing policy of deliberate indifference to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' serious medical needs.

COUNT TWO VIOLATIONS OF THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT (Deliberate Indifference to Serious Medical Needs)

- 82. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez realleges Paragraphs 1 through 74 above as if fully realleged herein.
- MCSO John Doe Officers 1-5 and MCSO Jane Doe Officers 1-5 were aware that Ms. Mendiola-Martinez had a serious medical need and knew that placing shackles on Ms. Mendiola-Martinez during transport to and from the hospital, while in labor, and during post-partum recovery posed a substantial risk of serious harm to her safety and health. MCSO John Doe Officers 1-5 and Jane Doe Officers 1-5 evinced deliberate indifference to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' serious medical needs when they placed her in restraints during labor and recovery.
- 84. To the extent the actions alleged above were not customary or in compliance with Maricopa Medical Center practice and policy, then John Doe Doctors 1-5, Jane Doe Doctors 1-5, John Doe Nurses 1-5, Jane Doe Nurses 1-5 were aware that Ms. Mendiola-Martinez had a serious medical need and knew that placing shackles on Ms. Mendiola-Martinez during transport to and from the hospital, while in labor, and during post-partum recovery posed a substantial risk of serious harm to her safety and health. MCSO John Doe Officers 1-5 and Jane Doe Officers 1-5 evinced deliberate indifference to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' serious medical needs when they placed her in restraints during labor and recovery.
- 85. As applied to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez, Sheriff Arpaio's and MCSO 's practice and policy of shackling women in labor and post-delivery, prohibiting post-partum

mothers from using a medically recommended and related supplies, and denying a post-partum mother her prescribed pain medication constitutes a policy of deliberate indifference to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' serious medical needs.

As applied to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez, the Maricopa Medical Center's practice and policy of "deferring to law enforcement" regarding the MCSO policy of shackling women in labor and post-delivery, a policy of deliberate indifference to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' serious medical needs.

COUNT THREE VIOLATIONS OF THE EIGHTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENTS (Cruel and Unusual Punishment)

- 87. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez realleges Paragraphs 1 through 74 above as if fully realleged herein.
- 88. The wholly unnecessary shackling of Ms. Mendiola-Martinez during and after her labor constituted cruel and unusual punishment, in violation of the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments.
- 89. To the extent the actions alleged above were not customary or in compliance with MCSO practice and policy, then John Doe Officers 1-5 and Jane Doe Officers 1-5 are liable in their individual capacities, because a reasonable officer in their positions would have known that shackling a laboring and post-partum woman and denying her medical supplies and post-operative pain medications, all contrary to medical orders and/or standards, constitute deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.
- 90. As applied to Ms. Mendiola-Martinez, Sheriff Arpaio's and MCSO's practice and policy of shackling women in labor and post-delivery, prohibiting post-partum

mothers from using a medically recommended and related supplies, and denying a post-partum mother her prescribed pain medication constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.

COUNT FOUR

VIOLATIONS OF THE FIFTH, FOURTEENTH, AND FIFTEENTH AMENDMENTS (Equal Protection - Disparate Treatment)

- 91. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez realleges Paragraphs 1 through 74 above as if fully realleged herein.
- 92. The Arizona Bailable Offenses Act requires that persons whom the State believes are in the country illegally be held without bond, if they are charged with a felony.
- 93. The Act, therefore, creates a disparity between women who are born in the United States and those of other national origins, serving no compelling government interest.
- 94. Therefore, women who are arrested and charged with felonies in Maricopa County and who are not from another country and unable to prove that they are in the United States legally will be held without bond and at the mercy of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for their health care.
- 95. Pregnant women, such as Ms. Mendiola-Martinez, who are arrested and charged with felonies and who are from another country and unable to prove that they are in the United States legally, therefore are more likely to be subject to shackling than similarly-situated United States citizens.

- 96. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez was subject to a lower standard of medical care and a higher degree of danger to her and fetus -- than similarly-situated women who are United States citizens.
- 97. As such, the MCSO shackling policy regarding pregnant inmates violated Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' right to be free from discrimination based on her national origin.
- 98. This disparate treatment is consistent with the findings of the United States

 Department of Justice regarding the systemic bias towards Latinos demonstrated by

 Sheriff Arpaio and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

COUNT FIVE MONELL LIABILITY

- 99. Ms. Mendiola-Martinez realleges Paragraphs 1 through 74 above as if fully realleged herein.
- 100. As a proximate result of MCSO and Maricopa Medical Center's unconstitutional policies, practices, acts and omissions, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez suffered immediate and irreparable injury, including physical, psychological and emotional injury and risk of death. See *Monell v. New York City Dept. of Social Svcs.*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978)
- 101. The above-described actions of the Defendants occurred as a direct result of a failure on the part of the individual defendants, MCSO, and the Maricopa Medical Center to adequately train, supervise, and discipline its employees.
- 102. The above-described inadequate training and supervision constituted an official policy of the individual defendants, MCSO and the Maricopa Medical Center.
- 103. Transporting and guarding pregnant inmates is a usual and recurring situation with which MCSO and its employees must deal on a regular basis.

104. Treating pregnant MCSO inmates is a usual and recurring situation with which the Maricopa Medical Center must deal on a regular basis.

105. The above-mentioned failures to adequately train, supervise, and discipline their employees by the MCSO and the Maricopa Medical Center were a direct and proximate cause of a violation of the constitutional and civil rights of the Plaintiff.

DAMAGES

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays this court award of judgment against the Defendants for the above-described violations of her constitutional rights.

106. In favor of the Plaintiff, and against the above-named Defendants, joint and severally, for compensatory and special damages, in an amount which will fairly and reasonably compensate her for her past and future medical care; for her past and future pain and suffering, and disability; and for the violation of her civil rights, as set forth above, in an amount to be determined at trial in this matter.

107. In favor of the Plaintiff and against each of the above-named Defendants, jointly and severally, for punitive damages for the injuries, damages, and violation of Ms. Mendiola-Martinez' rights, as set forth above, in an amount to be determined at a trial in this matter.

108. For injunctive and other equitable relief, reforming the Defendants MCSO and Maricopa Medical Center's policies, practices and procedures to prevent like actions and harms in the future.

109. For all costs, disbursement and attorney fees, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988 and for other such relief as the Court deems just and reliable.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests this Court to enter a Judgment in her favor of compensatory and punitive damages. She further seeks attorney fees and costs and such other relief as may be just and proper. In addition, Ms. Mendiola-Martinez further seeks appropriate discipline or termination for all responsible officials and all other relief available under for which she qualifies.

PLAINTIFF HEREBY DEMANDS A TRIAL BY JURY

Respectfully submitted this Nineteenth day of December, 2011.

s/Joy BertrandJoy BertrandAttorney for Plaintiff

s/John McBee
Attorney for Plaintiff