

Laki Syph

4001 N Central Ave Apt 449

Phoenix, AZ 85012

Cell: 602-500-6981

Email: Lsyph@yahoo.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

Laki Syph,
Plaintiff,

v.

BASIS Phoenix Central;
Michelle Astwood, Head of School, in her individual and official capacity;
Michael Hancock, Head of Operations, in his individual and official capacity;
BASIS.ed (BASIS Educational Group, LLC);
Defendants.

Case No.: CV2025-029701

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

(Jury Trial Demanded)

I. PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Laki Syph is a resident of Maricopa County, Arizona.
2. Defendant BASIS Phoenix Central is a public charter school operating in Phoenix, Arizona.
3. Defendant Michelle Astwood was, at all relevant times, the Head of School at BASIS Phoenix Central, acting under color of law and within the scope of her employment.
4. Defendant Michael Hancock was, at all relevant times, the Head of Operations at BASIS Phoenix Central, acting under color of law and within the scope of his employment.
5. Defendant BASIS.ed (BASIS Educational Group, LLC) is the managing entity and operator of BASIS Phoenix Central.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. Jurisdiction is proper under A.R.S. § 12-821 and related provisions.

7. Venue is proper in Maricopa County because the events occurred in this county and all parties reside or operate here.

8. Plaintiff has complied with A.R.S. § 12-821.01 by filing a Notice of Claim dated June 20, 2025 (Exhibit A and Exhibit B).

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

9. On March 4, 2025, Plaintiff Laki Syph attempted to pickup his minor daughter after BASIS Phoenix Central let out. He was informed by the front office admin Ms. Neisha in front of his minor son, that his minor daughter could not be located.

10. For nearly two hours, BASIS staff failed to notify law enforcement or accurately account for the child's whereabouts.

11. Plaintiff was told by the Office Admin Ms. Neisha not to call the police so he called anyway and was denied access to his child. 911 Call recording [Exhibit C].

12. These negligent actions created emotional distress and endangered the welfare of Plaintiff's child.

13. On June 15, 2025, Plaintiff was wrongfully arrested and charged with aggravated criminal damage, based on misrepresentations by BASIS employees [Exhibit D].

14. Plaintiff was jailed for two days without access to diabetes medication, suffered emotional trauma, reputational harm, and incurred financial damages.

15. No criminal charges were ultimately filed; the court informed Plaintiff he was not required to appear.

16. BASIS personnel also submitted retaliatory and false reports to the Phoenix Police Department and multiple reports to Arizona Department of Child Safety [Exhibit E].

17. These reports were dismissed as unfounded and closed because they were found to be false allegations, but caused significant emotional and reputational harm to Plaintiff and his family.

IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

Count 1: False Arrest and Wrongful Imprisonment

18. Defendants caused Plaintiff's arrest without probable cause in violation of Arizona law.

19. Their conduct parallels the precedent in *Lacey & Larkin v. Arpaio*, where the false arrest of Phoenix New Times' co-founders resulted in a \$3.75 million settlement.

20. Similarly, Defendants here instigated Plaintiff's arrest stand legal process based on knowingly false or retaliatory allegations, violating Plaintiff's constitutional and statutory rights.

21. Plaintiff suffered loss of liberty, humiliation, and emotional trauma.

Count 2: Negligence

22. Defendants had a duty to ensure student safety and communicate with parents in emergencies.

23. Defendants breached this duty and caused foreseeable harm.

Count 3: Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress

24. Defendants' conduct—deliberately withholding information, lying to authorities, and retaliating—was extreme, outrageous, and intentional.

Count 4: Retaliation and Abuse of Process

25. Defendants retaliated against Plaintiff for asserting his parental rights, using police and CPS systems maliciously and without basis.

Count 5: Medical Negligence

26. Plaintiff's medical needs were disregarded during detention caused by Defendants' false reporting, leading to pain and suffering.

V. DAMAGES

27. Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages in the amount of \$3,250,000 for:

- False arrest
- Emotional trauma
- Lost wages
- Medical hardship
- Reputational harm
- Professional disruption to Plaintiff's spouse
- Psychological effects on Plaintiff's children

28. Plaintiff also seeks punitive damages to punish and deter malicious or reckless conduct by Defendants.

VI. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in his favor and award:

- A. Compensatory damages in the amount of \$3,250,000 or as proven at trial;
- B. Punitive damages in an amount to be determined;
- C. Costs of suit and reasonable attorney's fees;
- D. Pre- and post-judgment interest;
- E. Any other relief the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Laki Syph
4001 N. Central Ave #449
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
(Email: Lsyph@yahoo.com)
Pro Se Plaintiff

DATE: 06/15/2025
TIME: 11:41

Exhibit D
1 of 3

**MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INMATE PROPERTY INVENTORY**

33011
Page 1 of 1
MCSO BOOKING NO.

G186157

NAME

SYPH, LAKI LAMAR

DOB

05/22/1977

PROPERTY

QTY - ITEM

COLOR 1

COLOR 2

DESCRIPTION

1 MISC. PAPERS

PAPAER

ARRESTING OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY LISTED.

ARREST OFFICER: JEREMY ENNIS

ARREST OFFICER #: 09399

AGENCY: PHOENIX POLICE

PROPERTY IMPOUNDED: NO

RETURNED PROPERTY TO THE INMATE

INMATE SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

OFFICER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

RELEASED PROPERTY

RELEASED TO: _____ ID TYPE/NUMBER: _____

RELEASING OFFICER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

() INMATE TANK ORDER



SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY

EARLY DISPOSITION COURT	REGIONAL COURT CENTER
Downtown Phoenix (602) 372-6189	Downtown Phoenix (602) 506-0519

Exhibit D
2 of 3

KEEP THIS DOCUMENT FOR YOUR RECORDS

YOU MAY NEED THIS INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE TO PROVE THAT A CASE WAS NOT FILED AT THIS TIME

DEFENDANT: Laki Syph
PRE-FILE NUMBER: FE2025124832001
BOOKING NUMBER: 61810157
INITIAL APPEARANCE DATE: 6/19/2025 11:00 pm

NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN FILED AT THIS TIME

(THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE MATTER CANNOT BE FILED AT A LATER DATE)

After a person is arrested, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office or the State Attorney General (hereafter referred to as "State") reviews the police report(s) and determines whether a formal complaint (charges) will be filed in Court. If the State does not file a complaint with the Court within forty-eight (48) business hours after the Initial Appearance the pending court dates will be vacated. Although the court dates in your case have been vacated, this does not mean that the charges cannot be filed at a later date. In the majority of cases the State has at least seven (7) years in which to file a felony complaint with the Court and one (1) year to file a misdemeanor complaint. There are also some offenses for which the State has no time limit to file charges.



21924 >

Text Message • SMS
Thu, Jun 19 at 1:30 PM

From the Superior Court for Maricopa County: Charges were not filed in your case, PF2025124832 so you do not need to appear in court on 06/20/2025 and 06/24/2025. The Maricopa County Attorney's Office could still file charges against you in the future. If this happens, we will mail you notice to your last known address. PLEASE BE ADVISED: This notice only applies to the above listed case. Hearings in any other criminal cases are still on calendar. If you have questions, please contact the Superior Court for Maricopa County at [\(602\) 506-8575](tel:6025068575)

The sender is not in your contact list.

[Report Junk](#)

Text Message • SMS



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY
NOTICE OF DUTY TO INFORM



ASK: Is the child's parent(s) of American Indian heritage/ancestry?

Yes

No

Unknown

Please explain if unknown

If Yes,

Mother's Tribe

Father's Tribe

ASK: How do you identify your race? Please check all boxes that apply.

Information collected will assist the Department in better serving the cultural needs of children and families.

Name	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	White	Hispanic or Latino Origin	Unknown	Declined
Parent <u>dad</u>			X					

ASK: Please tell me how you identify your race/ethnicity.

Black

ASK: Please tell me what you know about the other parent's race/ethnicity.

hispanic

ASK: If your child(ren) is adopted or you are the legal guardian, what race/ethnicity does your child(ren) identify as?

Signatures

By signing page 2 of this form, you are acknowledging that the DCS Specialist has reviewed the information contained in this notice with you, you have been provided the pamphlet "A Guide to the Department of Child Safety" and a copy of this form.

Declined
Parent, Guardian or Custodian's Signature

Parent, Guardian or Custodian's Name (Please Print)

Phone

Date

Monica Ritchie
DCS Representative's Signature

Monica Ritchie
DCS Representative's Name (Please Print)

Phone

Date



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. The Department of Child Safety (DCS) prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics, or retaliation or any other status protected by federal law, state law, or regulation. Reasonable accommodations to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity are available upon request. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy contact your local office. TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1. Free language assistance for DCS services is available upon request. Ayuda gratuita con traducciones relacionadas con los servicios del DCS esta disponible a solicitud del cliente.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY
NOTICE OF DUTY TO INFORM



Investigation of Allegation(s)

When the Department of Child Safety (DCS) receives an allegation of child abuse or neglect by a parent, guardian, custodian, or adult member of the household and a report is taken, Arizona law requires DCS to investigate.

The following allegation(s) concerning your child (or children) is currently being investigated by DCS:

Specific Allegation(s):

Neglect
Physical Abuse

This notice is to inform you that:

- DCS has the authority by A.R.S. 8-802(B), A.R.S. 8-471(E)(3), and A.A.C. R-21-4-103(F) to interview a child without notice to or consent of the parent, guardian or custodian.
- DCS has no legal authority to compel or make you cooperate with the investigation or to accept services, but it is our hope that by working together we can find solutions to ensure that your child (or children) is safe and that your family has what it needs.
- DCS has a duty to proceed with the investigation even if you decide not to cooperate to ensure that your child (or children) is safe, although we would prefer to carry on with the investigation with your support.
- DCS has the authority to petition the Juvenile Court for a determination that your child (or children) is dependent and in need of protection. Your refusal to cooperate with the investigation or services offered does not in itself form a basis for DCS to take temporary custody of your child (or children), unless it is clearly necessary to protect your child (or children) from abuse or neglect.
- You may deny DCS entry into your home, unless DCS obtains a court order.
- You have the right to seek the advice of an attorney and to have an attorney present during your interviews.
- You have the right to provide written, telephonic or verbal responses to the allegation, including any documentation, and to have the information considered in determining whether your child (or children) is in need of DCS intervention.
- Any information that you provide in response to the complaint or allegation(s) will be considered during the investigation.
- Anything you say or write can be used in a court proceeding and may be included in DCS's report of the investigation.
- Any written response that you provide, including any documentation, will be included in the DCS case record.
- You may refuse to sign a release of information, consent to drug or alcohol testing, or submit to a mental health evaluation.
- You have the right to appeal determinations made by DCS about the results of the investigation and will be notified in writing of these results and how to appeal.
- You may call the DCS Office of the Ombudsman to file a complaint regarding services, actions, lack of actions, or treatment by the DCS staff. The Office of the Ombudsman will review your complaint and determine the type of response needed. The office may be reached via email at Ombudsman@azdcs.gov or by telephone at 1-877-527-0765 or (602) 364-0777.
- You have the right to file a complaint with the Arizona Ombudsman-Citizens Aide. Their telephone number is (602) 277-7292 or they can be reached via email at Ombuds@azoca.gov. The Ombudsman-Citizen Aide office is available to handle inquiries, concerns and complaints about agency actions, including DCS.

More information about DCS and your parental rights are outlined in the pamphlet, "A Guide to the Department of Child Safety" that I am leaving with you today.

Acknowledgment

By initialing page 1 of this form, you are acknowledging that the DCS Specialist has reviewed the allegations and the above information contained in this notice with you.

Initials Date

ARIZONA

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY

Kathryn Ptak, Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Notice of Unsubstantiated Child Safety Report

Laki Syph
4001 N Central Ave Apt 449
Phoenix AZ 85012

Date: 4/25/25

RE: IN10645801

Dear Laki Syph,

On 3/4/25, the Department of Child Safety (DCS) received a report of suspected child abuse, neglect or abandonment regarding a child or children in your care, custody or control. Based upon the information collected through an investigation of this report, the report has been unsubstantiated and based on the results of the investigation:

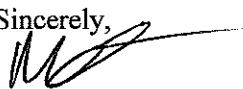
Your case will be closed.

DCS has offered/recommend the following services as a result of the investigation:

Community Resources

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance with this investigation. Child safety is of the utmost importance to us. If you have any further questions, please contact me at 623-687-0232 or Monica.Ritchie@azdcs.gov.

Sincerely,



Monica Ritchie
DCS Specialist
623-687-0232
5800 W Glenn Dr Suite 150
Glendale, AZ 85301

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. The Department of Child Safety (DCS) prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics, or retaliation or any other status protected by federal law, state law, or regulation. Reasonable accommodations to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity are available upon request. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy contact your local office. TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1. Free language assistance for DCS services is available upon request. Ayuda gratuita con traducciones relacionadas con los servicios del DCS esta disponible a solicitud del cliente.