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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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Elizabeth L. Valenzuela,

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No. CV-08-0228-PHX-LOA

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Plaintiff,

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**NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT
AND ORDER**

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vs.

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Michael J. Astrue,
Commissioner of Social Security,

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Defendant.

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Pursuant to Local Rule ("LRCiv") 3.8(a), Rules of Practice, effective
December 1, 2007, all civil cases are, and will be, randomly assigned to a U.S. district
judge or to a U.S. magistrate judge. This matter has been assigned to the undersigned U.S.
Magistrate Judge.

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As a result of the aforesaid Local Rule and assignment, if all parties
consent in writing, the case will remain with the assigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to
U.S.C. 636(c)(1) for all purposes, including trial and final entry of judgment. If any party
chooses the district judge option, the case will be randomly reassigned to a U.S. district
judge. To either consent to the assigned magistrate judge or to elect to have the case
heard before a district judge, the appropriate section of the form, entitled Consent To
Exercise Of Jurisdiction By United States Magistrate Judge¹, must be completed, signed

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¹The consent/election form may be obtained directly from the Clerk of the Court or
by accessing the District of Arizona's web site at www.azd.uscourts.gov. To find the
consent/election form on the District's web site, click on "Local Rules" at the top of the page,
then click on "Forms" on the left side of the page and then click on and print the appropriate

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1 and filed. The party filing the case or removing it to this Court is responsible for serving
2 all parties with the consent forms. Each party must file a completed consent form and
3 certificate of service with the Clerk of the Court not later than 20 days after entry of
4 appearance, and must serve a copy by mail or hand delivery upon all parties of record in
5 the case.

6 Any party is free to withhold consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction
7 without adverse consequences. 28 U.S.C. 636(c)(2); Rule 73(b), Fed.R.Civ.P.; *Anderson*
8 *v. Woodcreek Venture Ltd.*, 351 F.3d 911, 913-14 (9th Cir. 2003) (pointing out that
9 consent is the "touchstone of magistrate judge jurisdiction" under 28 U.S.C. §636(c). "A
10 party to a federal civil case has, subject to some exceptions, a constitutional right to
11 proceed before an Article III judge." *Dixon v. Ylst*, 990 F.2d 478, 479 (9th Cir. 1993)
12 (citing *Pacemaker Diagnostic Clinic of Am. Inc. v. Instromedix, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 537, 541
13 (9th Cir. 1984) (*en banc*)).

14 A review of the Court's file indicates that Plaintiff's Complaint was filed
15 on February 4, 2008. Plaintiff shall have until February 26, 2008 within which to make
16 her selection to either consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction or elect to proceed before a
17 United States district judge. It is unknown if a copy of the appropriate consent form
18 electronically transmitted to Plaintiff's counsel on February 4, 2008 by the Clerk's office
19 was served with the Complaint per the written instructions from the Clerk.

20 Accordingly,

21 **IT IS ORDERED** that Plaintiff shall file on or before **February 26,**
22 **2008** her written election to either consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction or elect to
23 proceed before a United States district judge.

24 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff shall serve upon the
25 Defendant the appropriate consent form provided at the time of the filing of her
26 Complaint at the time of service of her Complaint upon the Defendant.

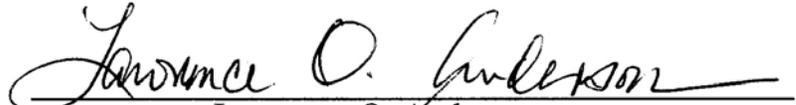
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28 form.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant shall either consent to magistrate judge jurisdiction or elect to proceed before a district judge within twenty (20) days of Defendant's formal appearance herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counsel and any party, if unrepresented, shall hereinafter comply with the Rules of Practice for the United States District Court for the District of Arizona, as amended on December 1, 2007. The District's Rules of Practice may be found on the District Court's internet web page at www.azd.uscourts.gov/. All other rules may be found as www.uscourts.gov/rules/. The fact that a party is acting pro se does not discharge this party's duties to "abide by the rules of the court in which he litigates." *Carter v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*, 784 F.2d 1006, 1008 (9th Cir. 1986).

DATED this 6th day of February, 2008.


Lawrence O. Anderson
United States Magistrate Judge