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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

MICHAEL STANFORD,

1:06-CV-00265-OWW-DLB-P

Plaintiff,

vs.

FIRST INFORMATIONAL ORDER

W. J. SULLIVAN,

Defendants.

_____/

Plaintiff MICHAEL STANFORD (“plaintiff”) is a prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in a civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. In litigating this action, the parties must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (Fed. R. Civ. P.) and the Local Rules of the United States District Court, Eastern District of California (Local Rules). This order highlights specific rules of which the parties should take particular note. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LOCAL RULES, FEDERAL RULES OR A COURT ORDER, INCLUDING THIS ORDER, WILL BE GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL OR OTHER APPROPRIATE SANCTIONS. See Local Rule 11-110; Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).

- 1. Documents intended to be filed with the court must be mailed to the Clerk of the**

1 Court. See Local Rule 5-134(a). All documents improperly mailed to a judge's chambers will
2 be stricken from the record.¹ A document requesting a court order must be styled as a motion,
3 not a letter. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.

4 2. Each document submitted for filing must include the original signature of the filing
5 party or parties. Local Rule 7-131; Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(a). All documents submitted without
6 the required signature(s) will be stricken. Each separate document must be separately stapled.
7 See Local Rule 7-130. If a document is stapled behind another document, it will not be filed
8 and will not enter the court docket.

9 3. All documents filed with the court must be submitted with an additional legible
10 conformed copy for the court's use. See Local Rule 5-134(b). A document submitted without
11 an extra copy for the court's use will be stricken. If the filing party wishes the court to return
12 a file-stamped copy, he or she must include an additional copy for that purpose (i.e., submit
13 an original and two copies, one for the court's use and one to be returned) AND a pre-
14 addressed postage paid envelope. The court cannot provide copy or mailing service for a
15 party, even for an indigent plaintiff proceeding in forma pauperis. Copies of documents from
16 the court file may be obtained at the cost of fifty cents per page.

17 4. After defendants have appeared in an action by filing a pleading responsive to the
18 complaint (i.e., an answer or a motion to dismiss), all documents filed with the court must
19 include a certificate of service stating that a copy of the document was served on the opposing
20 party. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 5; Local Rule 5-135. A document submitted without the required
21 proof of service will be stricken. Where a party is represented, service on the party's attorney
22 of record constitutes effective service.

23 5. All filings must bear the file number assigned to the action, followed by the initials
24 of the District Court Judge and the Magistrate Judge to whom the case is assigned and the

25 ¹ When a document is stricken, it becomes a nullity and is not considered by the court
for any purposes.

1 letter "P." Where plaintiff simultaneously pursues more than one action, he or she must file
2 separate original documents and the appropriate number of copies in each action to which the
3 document pertains. Documents submitted listing more than one case number in the caption
4 will be stricken.

5 6. The court cannot serve as a repository for the parties' evidence (i.e., prison or
6 medical records, witness affidavits, etc.). The parties may not file evidence with the court until
7 the course of litigation brings the evidence into question (for example, on a motion for
8 summary judgment, at trial, or when requested by the court). Evidence improperly submitted
9 to the court will be stricken.

10 7. After an answer is filed, the court will issue an order opening discovery, and setting
11 the deadlines for discovery, amended pleadings, and pre-trial dispositive motions. No
12 discovery may be conducted without court permission until an answer is filed and the court
13 issues the discovery order. Discovery propounded on a party is self-executing, and must be
14 served directly on the party from whom discovery is sought; parties should not file copies of
15 their discovery with the court. See Local Rules 33-250, 34-250, 36-250. Discovery documents
16 inappropriately submitted to the court will be stricken. Where the response to discovery is
17 unsatisfactory, the party seeking discovery may file a motion to compel discovery, including
18 a copy of the discovery propounded and the response thereto. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 37.

19 8. Because plaintiff is incarcerated and proceeds pro se, all pretrial motions will be
20 submitted without a hearing. See Local Rule 78-230(m). The parties are referred to Local
21 Rule 78-230(m) for the briefing schedule on motions.

22 9. All court deadlines will be strictly enforced. Requests for time extensions must state
23 the reason the extension is needed and must be filed with the court before the deadline in
24 question. See Local Rule 6-142.

25 10. A pro se plaintiff has an affirmative duty to keep the court and opposing parties
apprised of his or her address. If a plaintiff moves and fails to file a notice of change of

1 address, service of court orders at plaintiff's prior address shall constitute effective notice. See
2 Local Rule 83-182(d). If mail directed to plaintiff is returned by the U.S. Postal Service as
3 undeliverable, the court will not attempt to re-mail it. If the address is not updated within
4 sixty days of the mail being returned, the action will be dismissed for failure to prosecute. See
5 Local Rule 83-183(b).

6 11. The court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief
7 against a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C.
8 § 1915A(a). The court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if the prisoner has raised
9 claims that are legally "frivolous or malicious," that fail to state a claim upon which relief may
10 be granted, or that seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28
11 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). The court will direct the United States Marshal to serve plaintiff's
12 complaint only after the court has screened the complaint and determined that it contains
13 cognizable claims for relief against the named defendants. The court has a large number of
14 prisoner civil rights cases pending before it and will screen plaintiff's complaint in due course.

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16 Dated: March 14, 2006
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/s/ Dennis L. Beck
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE