

1
2
3
4
5 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

6 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

7
8 JAMES BOWELL,

CASE NO. 1:10-CV-02336-AWI-DLB PC

9 Plaintiff,

ORDER DENYING OBJECTIONS

10 v.

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR STAY OF
PROCEEDINGS

11 CALIFORNIA STATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE
12 TREATMENT FACILITY AT CORCORAN,
et al.,

(DOC. 11)

13 Defendants.
14 _____/

15
16 Plaintiff James Bowell (“Plaintiff”) is a prisoner in the custody of the California
17 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”). Plaintiff is proceeding pro se and in
18 forma pauperis in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On December 15, 2010,
19 Plaintiff filed his complaint. On June 7, 2011, the Magistrate Judge assigned to this action
20 screened Plaintiff’s complaint and dismissed it for failure to state a claim with leave to amend.
21 Pending before the Court are: 1) Plaintiff’s objections to the magistrate judge’s order and 2)
22 Plaintiff’s motion for stay of the proceedings, filed June 16, 2011. Doc. 11.

23 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72 governs magistrate judge jurisdiction. Rule 72(a)
24 states in pertinent part: “The district judge in the case must consider timely objections and
25 modify or set aside any part of the [magistrate judge’s] order that is *clearly erroneous or is*
26 *contrary to law.*” Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a) (emphasis added); *see* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). Under
27 the clearly erroneous standard of review, a district court may overturn a magistrate judge’s ruling
28 ““only if the district court is left with the definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been

1 made.”” *Computer Economics, Inc. v. Gartner Group, Inc.*, 50 F. Supp. 2d 980, 983 (S.D. Cal.
2 1999) (quoting *Weeks v. Samsung Heavy Indus. Co., Ltd.*, 126 F.3d 926, 943 (7th Cir. 1997)).
3 Under the contrary to law standard, a district court may conduct independent review of purely
4 legal determinations by a magistrate judge. *Id.*

5 Here, Plaintiff contends that his allegations are sufficient for medical malpractice.
6 Plaintiff alleges some sort of conspiracy by the magistrate judge regarding his order. Plaintiff
7 also seeks appointment of counsel.

8 Plaintiff’s arguments are without merit. Medical malpractice fails to state a cognizable
9 Section 1983 claim because medical malpractice does not violate the Constitution. *See Estelle v.*
10 *Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 106 (1976) (“[A] complaint that a physician has been negligent in
11 diagnosing or treating a medical condition does not state a valid claim of medical mistreatment
12 under the Eighth Amendment. Medical malpractice does not become a constitutional violation
13 merely because the victim is a prisoner.”). Additionally, the United States Magistrate Judge is
14 entitled to absolute judicial immunity from Section 1983 damages actions. *Tanner v. Heise*, 879
15 F.2d 572, 576-78 (9th Cir. 1989). The Court finds that the Magistrate Judge’s order was not
16 clearly erroneous or contrary to law.

17 Regarding a stay of the proceedings, Plaintiff contends that due to his incarceration, he is
18 unable to seek representation by a law firm or to find expert witnesses. Plaintiff requests a stay
19 for one year. Plaintiff currently fails to state a claim. Plaintiff’s incarceration is not good cause
20 to merit a stay of these proceedings. The Court will not grant a stay in this action.

21 Accordingly, it is HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff’s objections and motion to stay are
22 denied. Plaintiff is GRANTED thirty days in which to file an amended complaint as set forth in
23 the court’s June 7, 2011 order.

24
25 IT IS SO ORDERED.

26 Dated: August 9, 2011

27 
28 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE