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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JAMES F. CRUZ,)	Case No.: 1:14-cv-01631-AWI-SAB (PC)
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL
PACIFIC ORTHOPEDIC MEDICAL GROUPS, et al.,)	[ECF No. 5]
Defendants.)	
)	
)	

Plaintiff James F. Cruz is appearing pro se and in forma pauperis in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

On September 23, 2013, Plaintiff filed a motion seeking the appointment of counsel. Plaintiff does not have a constitutional right to appointed counsel in this action, Rand v. Rowland, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997), and the court cannot require any attorney to represent plaintiff pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). Mallard v. United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989). However, in certain exceptional circumstances the court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel pursuant to section 1915(e)(1). Rand, 113 F.3d at 1525.

Without a reasonable method of securing and compensating counsel, the court will seek volunteer counsel only in the most serious and exceptional cases. In determining whether “exceptional circumstances exist, the district court must evaluate both the likelihood of success on the

1 merits [and] the ability of the [plaintiff] to articulate his claims pro se in light of the complexity of the
2 legal issues involved.” Id. (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

3 In the present case, the court does not find the required exceptional circumstances. Even if it
4 assumed that plaintiff is not well versed in the law and that he has made serious allegations which, if
5 proved, would entitle him to relief, his case is not exceptional. The Court has yet to screen Plaintiff’s
6 complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, and a cursory review of Plaintiff’s complaint alleges an
7 claim of deliberate indifference to his medical needs. The legal issues present in this action are not
8 complex, and Plaintiff has thoroughly set forth his allegations in the complaint. However, at this early
9 stage in the proceedings, the court cannot make a determination that Plaintiff is likely to succeed on
10 the merits, and based on a review of the record in this case, the court does not find that plaintiff cannot
11 adequately articulate his claims. Id.

12 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff’s motion for the appointment of counsel is HEREBY
13 DENIED, without prejudice.

14
15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16 Dated: November 14, 2014



UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE