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2 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
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11 **Kern County Sheriff's Department,**  
12 **Aaron Warmerdam and Jeffrey Kelly**

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

15 **THE ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER**  
16 **MCDANIEL, ET AL.,**

17 **Plaintiff,**

18 **v.**

19 **COUNTY OF KERN, ET AL.**

20 **Defendants.**

21 **CASE NO. 1:15-cv-01320-JAM-JLT**  
22 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**  
23 **FOR DISCOVERY MATTERS**

24 COME NOW, all Plaintiffs and all Defendants (hereinafter the "Parties") to this  
25 matter, and agree and stipulate to a Protective Order, as follows:

26 1. WHEREAS it is anticipated that Plaintiffs will request portions of the  
27 private personnel records of law enforcement members of the Kern County Sheriff's  
28 Office ("KCSO"), which qualify as peace officer records under California Penal Code  
§§ 832.7 and 832.8, and KCSO will be requested to produce the records in discovery;

2. WHEREAS the parties agree that discovery of the private personnel  
records of law enforcement members of the KCSO may be relevant to this action;

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1           3.     WHEREAS Defendants are concerned that turning over the KCSO  
2 private personnel records without a protective order could result in the violation of the  
3 privacy rights of KCSO Deputies including but not limited to those who are parties to  
4 this litigation;

5           4.     WHEREAS the parties agree that a Stipulated Protective Order is  
6 necessary to balance Plaintiffs' need for relevant discovery, KCSO's duty as steward  
7 of the records, and the privacy rights of the KCSO Deputies including but not limited to  
8 those who are parties to this litigation;

9           5.     WHEREAS it is anticipated that Plaintiffs will request portions of the  
10 investigation reports, records and evidence, including coroner's records and autopsy  
11 photos prepared during the investigation of the underlying incident by law enforcement  
12 members of the Kern County Sheriff's Office (hereinafter "investigation records"), and  
13 KCSO will be requested to produce the records in discovery;

14          6.     WHEREAS the parties agree that discovery of the investigation records  
15 may be relevant to this action;

16          7.     WHEREAS Defendants are concerned that turning over the investigation  
17 records without a protective order could result in the violation of the privacy rights of  
18 witnesses, Decedent, Plaintiffs and/or KCSO Deputies including, but not limited to,  
19 those who are parties to this litigation, and of the investigation privilege;

20          8.     WHEREAS the parties agree that a Stipulated Protective Order is  
21 necessary to balance Plaintiffs' need for relevant discovery, KCSO's duty as steward  
22 of the records, and the privacy rights of witnesses, Decedent, Plaintiffs and/or KCSO  
23 Deputies including, but not limited to, those who are parties to this litigation;

24          9.     WHEREAS it is anticipated that Defendants may request portions of the  
25 private financial, medical and psychological records of Decedent and Plaintiffs, and  
26 Plaintiffs may be requested to produce the records in discovery;

27          10.    WHEREAS the parties agree that discovery of the private financial,  
28 medical and psychological records of Decedent may be relevant to this action;

1           11. WHEREAS Plaintiffs are concerned that turning over the private  
2 financial, medical and psychological records of Decedent without a protective order  
3 may result in the violation of the privacy rights of Plaintiffs;

4           12. WHEREAS the parties agree that a Stipulated Protective Order is  
5 necessary to balance Defendants' need for relevant discovery of Decedent's private  
6 medical and psychological records, and Plaintiffs' desire to prevent unwarranted  
7 disclosure of Decedent's medical and psychological records;

8           13. WHEREAS it is anticipated that Defendants may request portions of the  
9 private records of each Plaintiff, and each Plaintiff may be requested to produce the  
10 records in discovery;

11           14. WHEREAS the parties agree that discovery of the private records of  
12 Decedent may be relevant to this action;

13           15. WHEREAS Plaintiffs are concerned that turning over the private records  
14 of each Plaintiff without a protective order could result in the violation of the privacy  
15 rights of Plaintiffs;

16           16. WHEREAS the parties agree that a Stipulated Protective Order is  
17 necessary to balance Defendants' need for relevant discovery and each Plaintiff's  
18 desire to prevent unwarranted disclosure of their private records;

19 **SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THIS COURT, THE PARTIES HEREBY**  
20 **STIPULATE TO THE FOLLOWING PROTECTIVE ORDER:**

21           17. In connection with discovery proceedings in this action, the parties  
22 designate the KCSO's personnel records regarding their Deputies including, but not  
23 limited to, those who are parties to this litigation, as CONFIDENTIAL.

24           18. In connection with discovery proceedings in this action, the parties  
25 designate the Decedent's financial, medical and psychological records as  
26 CONFIDENTIAL.

27           19. In connection with discovery proceedings in this action, the parties  
28 designate the investigation reports, records and evidence prepared during the

1 investigation of the underlying incident by law enforcement members of the Kern  
2 County Sheriff's Office, which is not otherwise available to the public through a public  
3 records request, as CONFIDENTIAL.

4 20. By designating the above matters as CONFIDENTIAL, the Parties certify  
5 to the Court that there is a good faith basis both in law and in fact for the designations  
6 within the meaning of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c).

7 21. Material designated as CONFIDENTIAL under this Order, the information  
8 contained therein, and any summaries, copies, abstracts, or other documents derived  
9 in whole or in part from material designated as confidential shall be used only for the  
10 purpose of the prosecution, defense, or settlement of this action and for no other  
11 purpose.

12 22. CONFIDENTIAL material produced pursuant to this Order may be  
13 disclosed or made available only to the Court, to counsel for a party (including the  
14 paralegal, clerical, and secretarial staff employed by such counsel), and to the  
15 "qualified persons" designated below:

- 16 (a) a named party, to which only CONFIDENTIAL material specifically  
17 related to the named party shall be disclosed;
- 18 (b) experts and/or consultants (together with their clerical staff) retained by  
19 such counsel to assist in the prosecution, defense or settlement of this  
20 action;
- 21 (c) court reporter(s) employed in this action;
- 22 (d) a witness at any deposition or other proceeding in this action; and
- 23 (e) any other person as to whom the parties in writing agree.

24 23. CONFIDENTIAL material shall not be provided to the news media  
25 directly or indirectly in any form or manner.

26 24. For purposes of Defendants' initial responses to Plaintiffs' production  
27 request, the parties agree that Defendants may exclude [redact] from the production  
28 the names, addresses, telephone numbers and other personal contact information of

1 any non-party Deputy, provided that the identified Deputy is not a first person witness,  
2 report writer and/or an investigator of Plaintiffs' complaints.

3 25. In the event of a disputed factual issue as to the preceding paragraph,  
4 and Plaintiffs deem it necessary to discover the identities and personal contact  
5 information of a non-party Deputy's information, excluded under the preceding  
6 paragraph, Plaintiffs' counsel will notify Defendants' counsels of their intent in writing  
7 to seek such personal information. If after five (5) days the parties are unable to reach  
8 an agreement on production of the non-party Deputy's information, then Plaintiffs may  
9 make an application to the Court for an order to resolve the dispute.

10 26. Nothing herein shall impose any restrictions on the use or disclosure by  
11 a party of material obtained by such party independent of the discovery process in this  
12 action, whether or not such material is also obtained through discovery in this action.

13 27. If a party wishes to file documents with the Court, which contain material  
14 designated as confidential, the party shall comply with Local Rules 140 and 141.

15 28. This Order shall be without prejudice to the right of the parties (a) to  
16 bring before the Court at any time the question of whether any particular document or  
17 information is confidential or whether its use should be restricted or (b) to present a  
18 motion to the Court under FRCP 26(c) for a separate protective order as to any  
19 particular document or information, including restrictions differing from those as  
20 specified herein. This Order shall not be deemed to prejudice the parties in any way in  
21 any future application for modification of this Order.

22 29. This Order is entered solely for the purpose of facilitating the exchange  
23 of documents and information between the parties to this action without involving the  
24 Court unnecessarily in the process. Nothing in this Order, or in the production of any  
25 information or document under the terms of this Order, or any proceedings pursuant to  
26 this Order, shall be deemed to have the effect of an admission or waiver by either  
27 party or of altering the confidentiality or non-confidentiality of any such document or  
28 information or altering any existing obligation of any party or the absence thereof.

1           30. This Order shall survive the final termination of this action, to the extent  
2 that the information contained in Confidential Material is not or does not become  
3 known to the public, and the Court shall retain jurisdiction to resolve any dispute  
4 concerning the use of information disclosed hereunder;

5           31. Upon termination of this case, counsel for each Party shall assemble and  
6 return to opposing counsel all documents, material and deposition transcripts  
7 designated as confidential and all copies of same, or shall certify the destruction  
8 thereof.

9           32. Any person, or persons, violating this order shall be subject to sanctions  
10 and all attorney's fees and costs associated with any related motion.

11  
12 Dated: December 15, 2015

LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL J. CURLS

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15 By: /s/ Nichelle D. Jones.  
16 Michael J. Curls, Esq.  
17 Nichelle D. Jones, Esq.  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

18  
19 Dated: December 15, 2015

THERESA A. GOLDNER,  
COUNTY COUNSEL

20  
21 By: /s/ Kathleen Rivera.  
22 Marshall S. Fontes, Esq.  
23 Kathleen Rivera, Esq.  
Attorneys for Defendants

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**ORDER**

The parties having stipulated thereto and good cause appearing therefor, IT IS  
THEREFORE ORDERED.

Dated: 12/15/2015

/s/ John A. Mendez  
JOHN A. MENDEZ,  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE