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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JAMAR R. HEARNS,
Plaintiff,
v.
ROSA GONZALES, et al.,
Defendants.

1:17-cv-00038-AWI-GSA-PC

ORDER SETTING SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCE

Jamar Hearn (“Plaintiff”) is a former prisoner proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis* with this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On May 21, 2020, Plaintiff filed a motion for a settlement conference. (ECF No. 58.) On May 26, 2020, defendants were ordered to notify the court if they believed a settlement conference would be beneficial. (ECF No. 59.) On June 16, 2020 Defendants filed a notice indicating they believe a settlement conference would be beneficial. (ECF No. 60.) The court has determined that this case will benefit from a settlement conference and will grant Plaintiff’s motion for a settlement conference. Therefore, this case will be referred to Magistrate Judge Erica P. Grosjean to conduct a settlement conference at the U. S. District Court, 2500 Tulare Street, Fresno, California 93721 in Courtroom #10 on December 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff’s motion for a settlement conference is granted and a settlement conference

1 has been set for December 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Courtroom #10 before Magistrate
2 Judge Erica P. Grosjean at the U. S. District Court, 2500 Tulare Street, Fresno,
3 California 93721.

4 2. A representative with full and unlimited authority to negotiate and enter into a binding
5 settlement shall attend in person.¹

6 3. Those in attendance must be prepared to discuss the claims, defenses and damages.
7 The failure of any counsel, party or authorized person subject to this order to appear in
8 person may result in the imposition of sanctions. In addition, the conference will not
9 proceed and will be reset to another date.

10 4. Each party shall provide a confidential settlement statement no later than November
11 24, 2020 to the following email address: epgorders@caed.uscourts.gov. Parties shall
12 also file a Notice of Submission of Confidential Settlement Conference Statement (See
13 Local Rule 270(d)).

14
15 Settlement statements **should not be filed** with the Clerk of the Court **nor served on**
16 **any other party**. Settlement statements shall be clearly marked “confidential” with
17 the date and time of the settlement conference indicated prominently thereon.

18
19 The confidential settlement statement shall be **no longer than five pages** in length,
20 typed or neatly printed, and include the following:

21
22 ¹ While the exercise of its authority is subject to abuse of discretion review, “the district court has the authority to
23 order parties, including the federal government, to participate in mandatory settlement conferences... .” United States
24 v. United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, 694 F.3d 1051, 1053, 1057, 1059 (9th Cir.
25 2012)(“the district court has broad authority to compel participation in mandatory settlement conference[s].”). The
26 term “full authority to settle” means that the individuals attending the mediation conference must be authorized to
27 fully explore settlement options and to agree at that time to any settlement terms acceptable to the parties. G.
28 Heileman Brewing Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir. 1989), cited with approval in Official
Airline Guides, Inc. v. Goss, 6 F.3d 1385, 1396 (9th Cir. 1993). The individual with full authority to settle must also
have “unfettered discretion and authority” to change the settlement position of the party, if appropriate. Pitman v.
Brinker Int’l., Inc., 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003), amended on recon. in part, Pitman v. Brinker Int’l., Inc.,
2003 WL 23353478 (D. Ariz. 2003). The purpose behind requiring the attendance of a person with full settlement
authority is that the parties’ view of the case may be altered during the face to face conference. Pitman, 216 F.R.D.
at 486. An authorization to settle for a limited dollar amount or sum certain can be found not to comply with the
requirement of full authority to settle. Nick v. Morgan’s Foods, Inc., 270 F.3d 590, 596-97 (8th Cir. 2001).

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- a. A brief statement of the facts of the case.
- b. A brief statement of the claims and defenses, i.e., statutory or other grounds upon which the claims are founded; a forthright evaluation of the parties' likelihood of prevailing on the claims and defenses; and a description of the major issues in dispute.
- c. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for further discovery, pretrial, and trial.
- d. The party's position on settlement, including present demands and offers and a history of past settlement discussions, offers, and demands.
- e. A brief statement of each party's expectations and goals for the settlement conference, including how much a party is willing to accept and/or willing to pay.
- f. If the parties intend to discuss the joint settlement of any other actions or claims not in this suit, give a brief description of each action or claim as set forth above, including case number(s) if applicable.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 29, 2020

/s/ Gary S. Austin
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE