

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WAYNE JEROME ROBERTSON,
Plaintiff,
v.
GARCIA, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 1:17-cv-01022-DAD-BAM (PC)

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO POST-SCREENING ADR AND STAYING CASE FOR 90 DAYS

Plaintiff Wayne Jerome Robertson (“Plaintiff”) is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis* in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Defendants Garcia and Jones have answered the first amended complaint. (ECF No. 22.)

Because it takes years to get to trial, the Court has identified this case as an appropriate case for post-screening ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution), which is an effort to resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively. No claims, defenses, or objections shall be waived by the parties' participation. In appropriate cases, defense counsel from the California State Attorney General's Office has agreed to participate in these early settlements.

As set forth in the screening order, Plaintiff has stated a cognizable civil rights claim. But, stating a cognizable claim does not mean Plaintiff will prevail at trial. Thus, the Court stays this

1 action for a period of 90 days to allow the parties to investigate Plaintiff's claims, meet and
2 confer, and then participate in a settlement conference.

3 Therefore, this case will be referred to Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone to conduct a
4 settlement conference at the California State Prison, Corcoran (CSP-COR), 4001 King Avenue,
5 Corcoran, CA 93212 on **October 5, 2018, at 8:30 a.m.** The Court will issue the necessary
6 transportation order in due course.

7 In issuing this order, there is a presumption that this case will proceed to a settlement
8 conference.¹ However, if after investigating Plaintiff's claims and speaking with Plaintiff, and
9 after conferring with others, defense counsel in good faith finds that a settlement conference
10 would be a waste of resources, defense counsel may move to opt out of this early settlement
11 conference. A written notice to opt out must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of the
12 issuance of this order.

13 The parties shall each submit to Judge Boone a confidential settlement conference
14 statement, as described below, to arrive at least seven days (one week) prior to the conference.

15 The Court puts the parties on notice that if Plaintiff has any outstanding criminal
16 restitution obligation, fines and/or penalties, these settlement negotiations shall not be geared
17 towards what the restitution obligation is, but what the value of the case itself is to each side,
18 irrespective of any outstanding restitution obligation.

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

20 1. This action is STAYED for 90 days to allow the parties an opportunity to settle their
21 dispute before the discovery process begins. Except as provided herein or by
22 subsequent court order, no other pleadings or other documents may be filed in this
23 case during the stay of this action. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery,
24 but may engage in informal discovery to prepare for the settlement conference.

25 2. This case is set for a settlement conference before Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone
26 on **October 5, 2018, at 8:30 a.m.**, at CSP-COR.

27
28 ¹ If the case does not settle, the court will then lift the stay of its Discovery and Scheduling Order or issue one
forthwith.

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

3 4. Those in attendance must be prepared to discuss the claims, defenses and damages.
4 The failure or refusal of any counsel, party or authorized person subject to this order to
5 appear in person may result in the cancellation of the conference and the imposition of
6 sanctions. The manner and timing of Plaintiff's transportation to and from the
7 conference is within the discretion of CDCR.

8 5. Defendants shall provide a confidential settlement statement to the following email
9 address: **saborders@caed.uscourts.gov**. Plaintiff shall mail his confidential
10 settlement statement to U.S. District Court, 2500 Tulare Street, Fresno, California,
11 93721, "**Attention: Magistrate Judge Stanley A. Boone.**" The envelope shall be
12 marked "Confidential Settlement Statement". Settlement statements shall arrive no
13 later than **September 28, 2018**. Parties shall also file a Notice of Submission of
14 Confidential Settlement Statement. See Local Rule 270(d). Settlement statements
15 **should not be filed** with the Clerk of the Court **nor served on any other party**.
16 Settlement statements shall be clearly marked "confidential" with the date and time of
17 the settlement conference indicated prominently thereon.

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

20 a. A brief statement of the facts of the case.

21 b. A brief statement of the claims and defenses, i.e., statutory or other grounds
22 upon which the claims are founded; a forthright evaluation of the parties'
23 likelihood of prevailing on the claims and defenses; and a description of the
24 major issues in dispute.

25 c. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for further discovery, pretrial,
26 and trial.

27 d. The party's position on settlement, including present demands and offers and a
28 history of past settlement discussions, offers, and demands.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **August 8, 2018**

/s/ Barbara A. McAuliffe
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE