1			
2			
2			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
9	EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
10			
11	JEREMY MICHAEL GARDNER,) Case No. 1:18-cv-00800-LJO-JDP	
12	Plaintiff,)))) ORDER REFERRING CASE TO POST-	
13	v.	SCREENING ADR AND STAYING CASE FOR 60	
14	HOLLY, et al.,) Date: November 14, 2019	
15 16	Defendants.) Time: 10:00 a.m.) Place: Courtroom 8 (BAM) _) Before the Honorable Barbara A. McAuliffe 	
17	Plaintiff Jeremy Michael Gardner is a state prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in		
18	this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.		
19	Because it takes years to get to trial, the Court has identified this case as an appropriate case for		
20	post-screening ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution), which is an effort to resolve such cases more		
21	expeditiously and less expensively. No claims, defenses, or objections shall be waived by the parties'		
22	participation. In appropriate cases, defense counsel from the California State Attorney General's Office		
23	has agreed to participate in these early settlements.		
24	As set forth in the screening order, Plaintiff has stated a cognizable civil rights claim. However,		
25	stating a cognizable claim does not mean that Plaintiff will prevail at trial. Thus, the Court stays this		
26	action for a period of 60 days to allow the parties to investigate Plaintiff's claims, meet and confer, and		
27	then participate in a settlement conference.		
28	///		
		1	

Therefore, this case will be referred to Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe to conduct a settlement conference at the United States Courthouse in Fresno, California on **November 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.** The Court will issue the necessary transportation order in due course.

In issuing this order, there is a presumption that this case will proceed to a settlement conference.¹ However, if after investigating Plaintiff's claims and speaking with Plaintiff, and after conferring with others, defense counsel in good faith finds that a settlement conference would be a waste of resources, defense counsel may move to opt out of this early settlement conference. A written notice to opt out must be filed within **twenty-one (21) days** of the date of the issuance of this order.

9 The parties shall each submit to Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe a confidential settlement
10 conference statement, as described below, to arrive at least seven days (one week) prior to the
11 conference.

12 The Court puts the parties on notice that if Plaintiff has any outstanding criminal restitution 13 obligation, fines and/or penalties, these settlement negotiations shall not be geared towards what the 14 restitution obligation is, but what the value the of the case itself is to each side, irrespective of any 15 outstanding restitution obligation.

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

- This action is STAYED for sixty (60) days to allow the parties an opportunity to settle
 their dispute before the discovery process begins. Except as provided herein or by
 subsequent court order, no other pleadings or other documents may be filed in this case
 during the stay of this action. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery, but may
 engage in informal discovery to prepare for the settlement conference.
 - This case is set for a settlement conference before Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe on November 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the United States Courthouse located at 2500 Tulare Street, Fresno, California 93721.

3. A representative with full and unlimited authority to negotiate and enter into a binding

26 27

22

23

24

25

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

16

^{28 &}lt;sup>1</sup> If the case does not settle, the Court will then lift the stay of its Discovery and Scheduling Order, and amend any deadlines if necessary.

settlement shall attend in person.

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

5. Defendants shall provide a confidential settlement statement to the following email address: bamorders@caed.uscourts.gov. Plaintiff shall mail his confidential settlement statement to U.S. District Court, 2500 Tulare Street, Fresno, California, 93721, "Attention: Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe." The envelope shall be marked "Confidential Settlement Statement". Settlement statements shall arrive no later than November 7, 2019. Parties shall also file a Notice of Submission of Confidential Settlement. See Local Rule 270(d). Settlement statements shall not be filed with the Clerk of the Court nor served on any other party. Settlement statements shall be clearly marked "confidential" with the date and time of the settlement conference indicated prominently thereon.

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

1		conference, including how much a party is willing to accept and/or willing to pay.
2		f. <u>If the parties intend to discuss the joint settlement of any other actions or claims</u>
3		not in this suit, give a brief description of each action or claim as set forth above,
4		including case number(s) if applicable.
5	7.	If a settlement is reached at any point during the stay of this action, the parties shall file
6		a Notice of Settlement in accordance with Local Rule 160.
7	8.	If the defense counsel wishes to "opt-out" of this settlement for the reasons stated above,
8		counsel must do so within twenty-one (21) days of this order by filing a "Notice of Opt-
9		Out and Request to Vacate Settlement Conference."
10	9.	The parties remain obligated to keep the Court informed of their current address at all
11		times during the stay and while the action is pending. Any change of address must be
12		reported promptly to the Court in a separate document captioned for this case and entitled
13		"Notice of Change of Address." See Local Rule 182(f).
14	10.	A failure to follow these procedures may result in the imposition of sanctions by the
15		court.
16		
17	IT IS SO ORDERED.	
18		<u> </u>
19	Dated: <u>September 19, 2019</u> UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE	
20		
21		
22	No. 205	
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
		4
	1	