

1 Therefore, this case will be referred to Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe to conduct a
2 settlement conference on **April 22, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.** In light of the coronavirus (COVID-19)
3 outbreak and evolving coronavirus protocols, the Court finds that the parties shall appear **remotely** via
4 the Zoom videoconferencing application.

5 Counsel for Defendants shall contact Courtroom Deputy, Esther Valdez, at (559) 499-5799 or
6 evaldez@caed.uscourts.gov for the video and dial-in information, including any necessary passcodes,
7 for all parties. Counsel for Defendants is also required to arrange for Plaintiff's participation by
8 contacting the Litigation Coordinator at the institution where Plaintiff is housed and providing the
9 necessary Zoom contact information.

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

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

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

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

- 22 1. This action is STAYED for 70 days to allow the parties an opportunity to settle their
23 dispute before the discovery process begins. Except as provided herein or by
24 subsequent court order, no other pleadings or other documents may be filed in this case
25 during the stay of this action. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery, but may
26 engage is informal discovery to prepare for the settlement conference.

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28 ¹ If the case does not settle, the Court will then issue the Discovery and Scheduling Order.

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2. This case is set for a remote settlement conference before Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe on **April 22, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.**
3. A representative with full and unlimited authority to negotiate and enter into a binding settlement shall attend in person.
4. Those in attendance must be prepared to discuss the claims, defenses and damages. The failure 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 **April 15, 2021**. Parties shall also file a Notice of Submission of Confidential Settlement Statement (See Local Rule 270(d)). Settlement statements **should 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.

