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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BRIAN EDWARDS,

Petitioner,

No. CIV S-11-3086 CKD P

vs.

M.D. McDONALD,

Respondent.

ORDER AND

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Petitioner, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, has filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The petition alleges that prison officials removed petitioner’s personal property and failed to return it or compensate him for it.

Petitioner’s challenges to his conditions of confinement are properly the subject of an action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Such actions have different procedural and exhaustion requirements, and are governed by a different body of substantive law, than actions seeking a federal writ of habeas corpus. As the United States Supreme Court has stated:

Federal law opens two main avenues to relief on complaints related to imprisonment: a petition for habeas corpus, 28 U.S.C. § 2254, and a complaint under the Civil Rights Act of 1871, Rev. Stat. § 1979, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Challenges to the validity of any confinement or to particulars affecting its duration are the province of habeas corpus, Preiser v. Rodriguez, 411 U.S. 475, 500 (1973); requests for relief turning on circumstances of confinement

1 may be presented in a § 1983 action. . . . Federal petitions for
2 habeas corpus may be granted only after other avenues of relief
3 have been exhausted. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(1)(A). [Citation.]
4 Prisoners suing under § 1983, in contrast, generally face a
substantially lower gate, even with the requirement of the Prison
Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that administrative opportunities be
exhausted first. 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a).

5 Muhammad v. Close, 540 U.S.749, 750-751 (2004) (per curiam).

6 Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Habeas Corpus Cases Under Section 2254 provides
7 for summary dismissal of a habeas petition “[i]f it plainly appears from the face of the petition and
8 any exhibits annexed to it that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court.” In the
9 instant case, it is plain from the petition and appended exhibits that petitioner is not entitled to
10 federal habeas relief. Therefore, the petition should be summarily dismissed.¹

11 In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk of the
12 Court is directed to serve a copy of the petition filed in this case together with a copy of these
13 findings and recommendations on the Attorney General of the State of California. The Clerk is
14 also directed to assign a district judge to this action.

15 IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that petitioner’s application for a writ of
16 habeas corpus be summarily dismissed.

17 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District
18 Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen
19 days after being served with these findings and recommendations, petitioner may file written
20 objections with the court. The document should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate Judge's
21 Findings and Recommendations.” Any response to the objections shall be filed and served within
22 fourteen days after service of the objections. Petitioner is advised that failure to file objections

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25 ¹ Petitioner may re-file the instant claims in an action pursuant to section 1983. Petitioner
26 is advised that the statutory filing fee for such an action is \$350.00. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914(a),
1915(b)(1). A section 1983 inmate plaintiff proceeding in forma pauperis is obligated to pay this fee
in monthly installments from his or her prison trust account.

1 within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. Martinez v.
2 Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

3 Dated: December 1, 2011

4 
5 CAROLYN K. DELANEY
6 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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