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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10

11 IMHOTEP SALAT,

No. 2:14-cv-01468-MCE-AC

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

ORDER AND FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

14 MICHAEL PIROTTO, et al.,

15 Defendants.
16

17 On December 17, 2014, the court held a hearing on defendants' motion to dismiss.
18 Plaintiff Imhotep Salat appeared telephonically in pro per and Jill Nathan appeared on behalf of
19 defendants Michael Pirotto and the County of Sacramento ("the County"). Also before the court
20 are plaintiff's motion for declaratory relief or, in the alternative, limited discovery, ECF No. 30,
21 and motion for sanctions, ECF No. 38. On review of the motions, the documents filed in support
22 and opposition, upon hearing the arguments of plaintiff and counsel, and good cause appearing
23 therefor, THE COURT FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

24 FACTUAL BACKGROUND

25 Plaintiff alleges that on October 3, 2013, he received a letter from Defendant Pirotto, a
26 criminal investigator with the County, notifying him that a felony warrant had been issued for his
27 arrest. ECF No. 15 at 3. In response to Defendant Pirotto's letter plaintiff turned himself in at the
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1 Sacramento County Main Jail on October 7, 2013.¹ Id. at 4. At that time, plaintiff asked both his
2 arresting officer and registering officer for a copy of his arrest warrant, but neither was able to
3 provide a copy. Id. Plaintiff alleges that the County's failure to provide him with a copy of his
4 arrest warrant upon request renders his arrest unlawful and qualifies as kidnapping, false
5 imprisonment, and a violation of his Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights. Id. at 4–5.

6 After his arrest plaintiff was detained for three days due to a “Commitment Re-arrest” that
7 wrongly appeared on his record. Id. at 5–6. Plaintiff had already been convicted and served his
8 time for the underlying crime relevant to the re-arrest. Id. At plaintiff's arraignment, the court
9 system reported the mistake and the judge released him on his own recognizance. Id. at 6.

10 Plaintiff alleges that this over-detention was a violation of his Fourth and Eighth Amendment
11 rights. Id. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendant Piroto was without jurisdiction to investigate him
12 under California law, which grants exclusive jurisdiction to the Attorney General's Office in
13 matters regarding charity organizations. Id. at 6–7. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendant Piroto
14 violated both plaintiff's Fourth Amendment rights and the Financial Right to Privacy Act by
15 obtaining D & I Special Care Services, LLC's bank statements from Bank of America without a
16 warrant or plaintiff's permission. Id. at 7.

17 After several requests to his counsel and the Sacramento Superior Court, plaintiff was, at
18 some unspecified time, provided with a copy of his arrest warrant. Id. at 9. On the arrest warrant;
19 however, the field designated for the “Authority of Warrant” reads “N/A.” Id. Plaintiff alleges
20 that the warrant was therefore invalid and his arrest was a violation of his constitutional rights.
21 Id. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendant Piroto violated the Disability Rights of California Act by
22 failing to notify him once Defendant Piroto's investigation began. Id. at 9–10. Plaintiff further
23 alleges that Defendant Piroto engaged in racial discrimination by choosing to investigate plaintiff
24 instead of William Grady, who admitted to criminally fraudulent acts during Defendant Piroto's
25 investigation and was somehow involved in the charges brought against plaintiff. Id. at 10–11.

26 ¹ The docket in plaintiff's case, People of the State of California v. Ikon Fakgraden Safir,
27 Sacramento Cnty. Super. Ct., Case No. 13F05883 (Oct. 1, 2013), (hereinafter “Plaintiff's
28 Criminal Case” or “the Underlying Criminal Case”) reflects a filing date of October 1, 2013.
ECF No. 24-1 at 2.

1 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Pirotto's investigation was excessive and slanderous, and as a
2 result plaintiff suffered a mental breakdown. Id. at 13.

3 Plaintiff also alleges that he was denied necessary medical treatment at Sacramento
4 County Jail after his arrest in violation of the Eighth Amendment. Id. at 11. Plaintiff suffers from
5 severe sleep apnea and requires a CPAP machine and daily medications of Abilify and Seroquel.
6 Id. Finally, plaintiff alleges that the County violated his constitutional rights pursuant to Section
7 1983 by failing to require Defendant Pirotto to send him a demand letter prior to his arrest in
8 accordance with the In Home Supportive Services Program ("IHSS") handbook. Id. at 14.
9 Plaintiff alleges that the County has a policy of overlooking such violations. Id.

10 On May 2, 2014, plaintiff filed a civil claim in Sacramento County Superior Court, Ikon
11 Safir v. Sacramento Cnty. Sheriff's Dept., Sacramento Cnty. Super. Court, Case No. 34-2014-
12 00162865 (May 2, 2014), for an intentional tort. ECF No. 24-1 at 4-19. Plaintiff's state court
13 complaint alleges, like his FAC, that he was wrongfully imprisoned for three days due to the
14 County's inadvertent or intentional error. Id. at 15-17. The docket in plaintiff's state court civil
15 case reveals that it is still active, with the next date being a case management conference
16 scheduled for February 26, 2015. Id. at 21-22.

17 PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

18 Plaintiff filed his original complaint against defendants Michael Pirotto and the County on
19 June 19, 2014, along with an application to proceed in forma pauperis. ECF No. 1 & 2. The
20 court granted plaintiff's application on June 2, 2014. ECF No. 3. Defendants then filed a motion
21 to dismiss plaintiff's complaint on October 15, 2014, ECF No. 12, after the court granted them an
22 extension to file a responsive pleading on September 12, 2014, ECF No. 9. On October 30, 2014,
23 before the court issued an order regarding defendants' motion to dismiss, plaintiff filed a first
24 amended complaint ("FAC") for violation of his constitutional and federal rights pursuant to
25 Section 1983. ECF No. 15. The court then vacated the hearing set for defendants' motion to
26 dismiss and denied it as moot on November 14, 2014. ECF No. 23. On November 17, 2014,

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1 defendants filed a motion to dismiss plaintiff's FAC along with a request for judicial notice.²
2 ECF No. 24. Defendants' motion argues that plaintiff's FAC should be dismissed because (1)
3 plaintiff's ongoing civil and criminal cases in state court mandate dismissal according to the
4 Younger abstention doctrine; (2) it fails to state a claim pursuant to Monell; (3) plaintiff lacks
5 standing to pursue a civil rights claim based on financial injury to a corporation; (4) plaintiff fails
6 to state a 1983 claim against Defendant Piroto; (5) Defendant Piroto is entitled to qualified
7 immunity; and (6) plaintiff fails to state any claim for violation of California law because
8 defendants are immune from liability for investigatory conduct. ECF No. 24 at 2.³

9 On November 24, 2014, plaintiff filed an opposition to defendants' motion to dismiss,
10 accompanied by a request for judicial notice.⁴ ECF No. 27. On December 9, 2014, plaintiff
11 requested to appear at the court's hearing on defendants' motion to dismiss telephonically. ECF
12 No. 31. The court granted his request on December 10, 2014. ECF No. 32. On the same day,
13 defendants filed a reply to plaintiff's opposition. ECF No. 33.

14 On December 5, 2014, plaintiff filed a motion for declaratory relief or, in the alternative,
15 limited discovery. ECF No. 30. On December 23, 2014, defendants filed an opposition to
16 plaintiff's motion for declaratory relief. ECF No. 35. On December 29, 2014, plaintiff filed a
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18 ² Defendants seek judicial notice of the docket in an ongoing criminal case, People of the State of
19 California v. Ikon Fakgraden Safir, Sacramento Cnty. Super. Ct., Case No. 13F05883 (Oct. 1,
20 2013), as well as the docket and filings in an ongoing civil case, Ikon Safir v. Sacramento Cnty.
21 Sheriff's Dept., Sacramento Cnty. Super. Ct., Case No. 34-2014-00162865 (May 2, 2014). ECF
22 No. 24-1. Under Rule 201 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, a court must take judicial notice of
23 an adjudicative fact that is not subject to reasonable dispute because it is either (1) generally
24 known or "(2) can be accurately and readily determined from sources whose accuracy cannot
25 reasonably be questioned." Fed. R. Evid. 201(b). The filings attached to defendants' request for
26 judicial notice can be determined "from sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be
27 questioned." Id. Accordingly, the defendants' request for judicial notice is granted because the
28 docket and filings in plaintiff's state court matters are directly related to plaintiff's FAC.

³ Citations to court documents refer to the page numbers assigned by the court's electronic
docketing system where available.

⁴ An examination of the documents contained in plaintiff's request for judicial notice and their
content indicates that they have little or no bearing on the determination of the instant motion.
For this reason, the propriety of judicially noticing them need not be resolved in conjunction with
this request for dismissal, and the request for judicial notice as to these documents will therefore
be denied.

1 motion for sanctions accompanied by a motion for judicial notice.⁵ ECF No. 38. Defendants
2 filed an opposition on January 9, 2015. ECF No. 39.

3 LEGAL STANDARDS

4 I. Failure to State a Claim

5 The purpose of a motion to dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6)
6 is to test the legal sufficiency of the complaint. N. Star Int'l v. Ariz. Corp. Comm'n, 720 F.2d
7 578, 581 (9th Cir. 1983). “Dismissal can be based on the lack of a cognizable legal theory or the
8 absence of sufficient facts alleged under a cognizable legal theory.” Balistreri v. Pacifica Police
9 Dep’t, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990). A plaintiff is required to allege “enough facts to state a
10 claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555
11 (2007). Thus, a defendant’s Rule 12(b)(6) motion challenges the court’s ability to grant any relief
12 on the plaintiff’s claims, even if the plaintiff’s allegations are true

13 In determining whether a complaint states a claim on which relief may be granted, the
14 court accepts as true the allegations in the complaint and construes the allegations in the light
15 most favorable to the plaintiff. Hishon v. King & Spalding, 467 U.S. 69, 73 (1984); Love v.
16 United States, 915 F.2d 1242, 1245 (9th Cir. 1989)

17 The court may consider facts established by exhibits attached to the complaint. Durning
18 v. First Boston Corp., 815 F.2d 1265, 1267 (9th Cir. 1987). The court may also consider facts
19 which may be judicially noticed, Mullis v. United States Bankruptcy Ct., 828 F.2d 1385, 1388
20 (9th Cir. 1987), and matters of public record, including pleadings, orders, and other papers filed
21 with the court, Mack v. South Bay Beer Distributors, 798 F.2d 1279, 1282 (9th Cir. 1986). The
22 court need not accept legal conclusions “cast in the form of factual allegations.” Western Mining
23 Council v. Watt, 643 F.2d 618, 624 (9th Cir. 1981).

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26 ⁵ Plaintiff’s motion asks the court to take judicial notice of “[e]xhibit A the motion hearing CD
27 that was taken on December 17, 2014, at 10 a.m. in court 26 regarding the 12 (b) motion for
28 dismissal.” ECF No. 38 at 4. No Exhibit A was attached to plaintiff’s motion, and what plaintiff
means by “motion hearing CD” is not clear. Accordingly, plaintiff’s motion for judicial notice
will be denied.

1 II. Section 1983 Claim

2 Generally, to state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege a violation of
3 rights protected by the Constitution or created by federal statute proximately caused by conduct
4 of a person acting under color of state law. Crumpton v. Gates, 947 F.2d 1418, 1420 (9th Cir.
5 1991). To state a claim under Section 1983 against a public entity not personally involved in a
6 constitutional violation, a plaintiff must allege a constitutional injury resulting from a “policy,
7 practice, or custom of the local entity.” Avalos v. Baca, 517 F. Supp. 2d 1156, 1162 (C.D. Cal.
8 2007) (citing Monell v. Dep’t of Soc. Srvs., 436 U.S. 658, 694 (1978)). This type of claim can be
9 asserted on three different bases. First, a public entity may be held liable when “implementation
10 of . . . official policies or established customs inflicts the constitutional injury.” Clouthier v.
11 County of Contra Costa, 591 F.3d 1232, 1249 (9th Cir. 2010) (quoting Monell, 436 U.S. at 708
12 (Powell, J., concurring)). Second, such liability may arise when a failure to act amounts to
13 “deliberate indifference to a constitutional right.” Id. (internal quotation marks omitted). Third,
14 this type of liability may arise when “an official with final policy-making authority . . . ratifies a
15 subordinate’s unconstitutional decision or action and the basis for it.” Id. (quoting Gillette v.
16 Delmore, 979 F.2d 1342, 1346–47 (9th Cir. 1992)).

17 Regardless of the theory underlying plaintiff’s claim, however, plaintiff must provide
18 “sufficient allegations of underlying facts to give fair notice and to enable the opposing party to
19 defend itself effectively.” AE ex rel. Hernandez v. County of Tulare, 666 F.3d 631, 637 (9th Cir.
20 2012) (quoting Starr v. Baca, 652 F.3d 1202, 1216 (9th Cir. 2011)).

21 III. Younger Abstention

22 The Younger abstention doctrine is based on the longstanding policy that federal courts
23 should not ordinarily enjoin pending criminal proceedings in state courts. See Younger v. Harris,
24 401 U.S. 37, 45 (1971). This principle has also been extended to limited classes of civil
25 proceedings. See New Orleans Pub. Serv., Inc. v. Council of City of New Orleans, 491 U.S. 350,
26 368 (1989). These proceedings include those cases where (1) there is an ongoing state
27 proceeding; (2) the state proceeding implicates important state interests; (3) the state proceeding
28 provides an adequate opportunity to raise federal questions; and (4) the federal action would

1 enjoin the state proceeding or have the practical effect of doing so. San Jose Silicon Valley
2 Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee v. City of San Jose, 546 F.3d 1087, 1092 (9th
3 Cir. 2008).

4 Further, in order for a state civil case to implicate “important state interests” under the
5 doctrine it must fit within one of three categories.

6 Notwithstanding its apparent breadth, that tag line is not an
7 invitation to abstain simply because a suit implicates a state law,
8 even one involving a traditional state concern. While recognizing
9 important state interests in a number of civil proceedings, “neither
10 [the Ninth Circuit] nor the Supreme Court has held Younger to
11 apply generally to ordinary civil litigation.” Potrero Hills Landfill,
12 Inc. v. Cnty. of Solano, 657 F.3d 876, 882 (9th Cir.2011). In
13 Middlesex, the Supreme Court offered three types of civil
14 proceedings in which a state might have a vital interest:
15 noncriminal proceedings that “bear a close relationship to
16 proceedings criminal in nature,” “[p]roceedings necessary for the
17 vindication of important state policies,” and “[p]roceedings
18 necessary . . . for the functioning of the state judicial system.” 457
19 U.S. at 432, 102 S. Ct. 2515. The first two categories implicate the
20 state's executive interest and encompass cases in which the state or
21 an agent of the state is a party “in an enforcement posture,” Potrero
22 Hills Landfill, 657 F.3d at 883. The third category encompasses
23 cases—including those between private parties—where the
24 operation of the state judicial system is itself at issue.

25 Logan v. U.S. Bank Nat. Ass'n, 722 F.3d 1163, 1167–68 (9th Cir. 2013); see also ReadyLink
26 Healthcare, Inc. v. State Comp. Ins. Fund, 754 F.3d 754, 759 (9th Cir. 2014). Where Younger
27 abstention does apply, “federal courts should not dismiss actions where damages are at issue;
28 rather, damages actions should be stayed until the state proceedings are completed.” Gilbertson,
381 F.3d 965, 968 (9th Cir. 2004).

29 If these requirements are met, the court must also consider whether any of the narrow
30 exceptions to the Younger abstention doctrine apply. The court need not abstain if the state court
31 proceedings were prosecuted in bad faith or for purposes of harassment, or the statute at issue is
32 “flagrantly and patently violative of express constitutional prohibitions.” Dubinka v. Judges of
33 Superior Court of State of Cal. for Cnty. of Los Angeles, 23 F.3d 218, 223–25 (9th Cir. 1994).
34 The extraordinary circumstances exception recognizes that a federal court need not abstain when
35 faced with a statute that is flagrantly unconstitutional in every clause. Id. at 225.

DISCUSSION

I. Plaintiff's Claims Based on the Defendants' Failure to Produce an Arrest Warrant

Plaintiff alleges that he requested and was denied a copy of his arrest warrant when he turned himself in. ECF No. 15 at 3.⁶ Plaintiff claims that defendants' failure to provide him with a copy of his arrest warrant upon request renders his arrest unlawful and qualifies as kidnapping, false imprisonment, and a violation of his Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights. Id. at 4–5, 9. Younger applies to these claims because (1) the criminal proceeding that they relate to is ongoing;⁷ (2) the criminal proceeding implicates important state interests, Kelly v. Robinson, 479 U.S. 36, 49 (1986) (“This Court has recognized that the States' interest in administering their criminal justice systems free from federal interference is one of the most powerful of the considerations that should influence a court considering equitable types of relief.”); and (3) plaintiff's claims include allegations related to the constitutionality of his arrest that can be raised in his pending criminal case. The court also finds that none of the limited exceptions to Younger abstention apply in this case.

Nevertheless, the court will not stay plaintiff's claims under the Younger doctrine because the allegations do not state a cause of action. First, the facts alleged do not establish a violation of plaintiff's constitutional rights. An arrest and subsequent detention pursuant to a facially valid arrest warrant do not violate due process unless the detention is unduly long. Baker v. McCollan, 443 U.S. 137, 144 (1979) (holding that where an arrest is made pursuant to a facially valid warrant, a three day detention does not amount to a due process violation). Plaintiff does not dispute the validity of his arrest warrant, and he points to no authority supporting the proposition that any right to be presented with an arrest warrant upon request is secured by the Fourth, Fifth, or Fourteenth Amendments.

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⁶ Plaintiff also claims that when he did eventually receive a copy of his arrest warrant it was not signed by the proper authority, id. at 9, however, it is not clear whether plaintiff is claiming that this constituted a violation of his constitutional rights.

⁷ People of the State of California v. Ikon Fakgraden Safir, Sacramento Cnty. Super. Ct., Case No. 13F05883 (Oct. 1, 2013)

1 Plaintiff also does not allege facts sufficient to state a claim for kidnapping or false
2 imprisonment. Kidnapping and false imprisonment are both California state law claims.
3 “Generally, to prove the crime of kidnapping, the prosecution must prove three elements: (1) a
4 person was unlawfully moved by the use of physical force or fear; (2) the movement was without
5 the person's consent; and (3) the movement of the person was for a substantial distance.” People
6 v. Jones, 133 Cal. Rptr. 2d 358, 362 (2003). Similarly, “[t]he crime of false imprisonment is
7 defined by Penal Code section 236 as the ‘unlawful violation of the personal liberty of another.’
8 The tort is identically defined.” Fermino v. Fedco, Inc., 7 Cal. 4th 701, 715 (1994) (emphasis
9 added). Plaintiff has not alleged that his arrest warrant was invalid, nor has he alleged any other
10 facts suggesting that his arrest was unlawful. In addition, plaintiff never alleges that he was
11 moved a substantial distance by use of physical force or fear. Accordingly, the court will grant
12 defendants’ motion to dismiss plaintiff’s federal and state law claims based on defendants’ failure
13 to present plaintiff with an arrest warrant upon request.

14 Should plaintiff by future amendment state a colorable claim or claims challenging the
15 validity of his arrest, the undersigned will recommend that they be stayed pursuant to Younger.

16 II. Plaintiff’s 1983 Claim Based on Denial of Medical Services

17 Although the court does not find that Younger abstention applies to plaintiff’s claims
18 based on the County’s denial of medical services, it will nevertheless grant defendants’ motion to
19 dismiss these claims because plaintiff has failed to allege facts sufficient to state a claim.

20 Plaintiff alleges that he suffers from severe sleep apnea and requires a CPAP machine and
21 daily medications of Abilify and Seroquel. ECF No. 15 at 11. Although plaintiff requested the
22 aforementioned sleep aids and medications, the County refused to provide them. Id. Plaintiff
23 claims that by refusing to provide him with medical care defendants violated his Fourth, Fifth,
24 Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights. Id. at 13. These claims challenging conditions of
25 confinement are independent of the underlying criminal case. Plaintiff does not seek injunctive
26 relief, and a disposition of the claims in his favor would not affect the outcome of his criminal
27 case. Younger does not require that the court abstain from adjudicating plaintiff’s claims because
28 they are not claims that would “enjoin the state proceeding or have the practical effect of doing

1 so.” San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee, 546 F.3d at
2 1092.

3 The court will, however, dismiss plaintiff’s § 1983 claims involving the County’s denial
4 of medical services because plaintiff has failed to allege facts sufficient to state a claim. To state
5 a § 1983 claim against the County plaintiff must allege that his constitutional rights were violated
6 as a result of (1) an official policy, practice, or custom; (2) defendants’ failure to act resulting
7 from deliberate indifference to his constitutional rights; or (3) the ratification of a subordinates’
8 unconstitutional decision or action by an official with final policy-making authority. Clouthier v.
9 Cnty. of Contra Costa, 591 F.3d 1232, 1249 (9th Cir. 2010); Trevino v. Gates, 99 F.3d 911, 918
10 (9th Cir. 1996) holding modified by Navarro v. Block, 250 F.3d 729 (9th Cir. 2001). Plaintiff
11 does not allege that the County had any policy, practice, or custom that resulted in him being
12 deprived of medical treatment. Nor does plaintiff allege that defendants acted with “deliberate
13 indifference to his constitutional rights,” or that anyone with policy-level authority made the
14 decision not to provide him with the medication requested. Accordingly, the court will grant
15 defendants’ motion to dismiss plaintiff’s § 1983 claim based on denial of medical services.

16 III. Plaintiff’s Section 1983 Claims Based on Over-confinement

17 The court also finds that although Younger does not require it to abstain from adjudicating
18 plaintiff’s § 1983 claims regarding over-confinement, his claims must be dismissed because he
19 has failed to allege sufficient facts.

20 Plaintiff alleges that defendants violated his Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights by
21 detaining him for three days on a “Commitment Re-arrest” that wrongly appeared on his record.
22 ECF No. 15 at 5–6. Plaintiff had already been convicted and served his time for the underlying
23 crime relevant to the re-arrest at the time. Id. At plaintiff’s arraignment, the court system
24 reported the mistake and the judge released him on his own recognizance. Id. at 6. Accordingly,
25 plaintiff’s claim does not relate to any ongoing case and Younger abstention does not apply.
26 However, plaintiff does not allege in accordance with Monell that his constitutional rights were
27 violated as a result of a policy, practice, or custom. Accordingly, the court will grant defendants’
28 motion to dismiss as to plaintiff’s § 1983 claims based on over-confinement.

1 IV. Plaintiff's Claims Based on Injury to D & I Special Care Services, LLC ("D & I, LLC")
2 and D & I Special Care Services ("D & I")

3 The court will also grant defendants' motion to dismiss plaintiff's claims based on injury
4 to D & I, LLC and D & I because plaintiff lacks standing.⁸

5 The standing doctrine limits federal court jurisdiction. Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife,
6 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992). For a plaintiff to have standing to assert his claims three factors must
7 be present: (1) injury in fact; (2) causation; and (3) redressability. Id. at 560–61. Plaintiff alleges
8 that Defendant Pirotto was without any authority to conduct his investigation into D & I because
9 the Attorney General's Office has exclusive jurisdiction over the investigation of non-profits. Id.
10 at 6–7. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendant Pirotto violated the Financial Privacy Act and
11 plaintiff's Fourth Amendment rights by securing the bank records of D & I, LLC without a
12 warrant. ECF No. 15 at 7. Plaintiff does not allege that he personally suffered any injury as a
13 result of Defendant Pirotto's investigation into these companies, and even if plaintiff is the
14 president of these organizations, he does not have standing to bring claims on their behalf.
15 Accordingly, the court finds that plaintiff lacks standing to assert his claims based on Defendant
16 Pirotto's investigation into D & I, LLC and D & I.

17 A pro se litigant "must be given leave to amend his or her complaint unless it is absolutely
18 clear that the deficiencies of the complaint could not be cured by amendment." Karim-Panahi v.
19 Los Angeles Police Dep't, 839 F.2d 621, 623 (9th Cir. 1988) (citation omitted). The court finds
20 that neither of these claims can be cured by amendment. For one thing, "[i]n general, an
21 American depositor has no reasonable expectation of privacy in copies of his or her bank records,
22 such as checks, deposit slips, and financial statements maintained by the bank." In re Grand Jury
23 Proceedings, 40 F.3d 959, 962 (9th Cir. 1994). This means that depositors cannot state a claim
24 for violation of their Fourth Amendment rights based on the government's use of bank records.
25 Kelley v. United States, 536 F.2d 897, 899 (9th Cir. 1976). Furthermore, the Federal Right to

26 ⁸ Although it is impossible to tell for certain, based on plaintiff's allegation that defendants
27 violated his Fourth Amendment rights it may be that plaintiff means to allege a violation of the
28 Federal Financial Privacy Act, 12 U.S.C. § 3400 *et seq.*, as opposed to the California Financial
Information Privacy Act, Cal. Fin. Code § 4050 *et seq.*

1 Financial Privacy Act (“RFPA”) does not apply to state law enforcement agencies. United States
2 v. Zimmerman, 957 F. Supp. 94, 96 (N.D.W. Va. 1997); see also Puerta v. United States, 121
3 F.3d 1338, 1341 (9th Cir. 1997). Accordingly, the deficiencies of these claims complaint cannot
4 be cured by amendment. The court therefore will recommend that plaintiff’s claims brought on
5 behalf of D & I, LLC and D & I be dismissed without leave to amend.

6 V. Plaintiff’s Disability Rights of California Act (“DRC”) and Section 1983 Claims Based on
7 Defendants’ Failure to Notify Him that an Investigation Was Ongoing

8 The court will also dismiss plaintiff’s DRC and § 1983 claims based on Defendant
9 Pirotto’s failure to notify him that he was under investigation, because plaintiff has not stated a
10 cognizable claim for relief.⁹ Plaintiff alleges that he receives social security benefits and receives
11 assistance from IHSS due to physical and mental disabilities. ECF No. 15 at 9. Plaintiff also
12 alleges that under the DRC he is entitled to notification if he is under investigation “for any
13 reason,” and by neglecting to do so Defendant Pirotto and the IHSS program violated the DRC
14 and his Fifth Amendment due process rights. Id. at 9–10. Plaintiff points to no authority, and the
15 court is not aware of any, supporting the proposition that agencies must tender notice to
16 participants in IHSS if they are under investigation. Accordingly, the court will grant defendants’
17 motion to dismiss as to these claims because plaintiff has failed to state a cognizable claim for
18 relief.

19 VI. Plaintiff’s Motion for Declaratory Relief

20 The court will deny plaintiff’s motion for declaratory relief because it does not request or
21 establish his entitlement to an order disposing of a case or controversy between the parties. “A
22 declaratory judgment, like other forms of equitable relief, should be granted only as a matter of
23 judicial discretion, exercised in the public interest.” Eccles v. Peoples Bank of Lakewood
24 Village, 333 U.S. 426, 431 (1948). “Declaratory relief should be denied when it will neither
25 serve a useful purpose in clarifying and settling the legal relations in issue nor terminate the
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27 ⁹ There is no “Disability Rights of California Act.” Accordingly, the court construes plaintiff’s
28 claim as arising under the closest proximity under California law, the Disabled Persons Act, Cal.
Civ. Code, § 54 *et seq.*

proceedings and afford relief from the uncertainty and controversy faced by the parties.” United States v. Washington, 759 F.2d 1353, 1357 (9th Cir. 1985). Plaintiff’s motion for declaratory relief seems to request that the court refuse to hear defendants’ motion to dismiss based on the allegation that it constitutes a violation of his right to free speech. See ECF No. 30 at 1–2 (requesting that “this court declare that any information provided by the attorney of record for defendant PIROTTO allegations of the Plaintiff’s Constitutional claim not be heard in this court is completely in violation of 42 U.S.C. 1983 FREE SPEECH”). The court will not grant plaintiff’s request as he has no constitutionally secured right to pursue claims that do not abide by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8. Plaintiff’s motion could also be construed as a request that the court order him released from prison, ECF No. 30 at 2, however, because plaintiff’s confinement presumably relates to the Underlying Criminal Case the court could not grant such a request under Younger, even if it were inclined to do so.

In the alternative, plaintiff requests permission to engage in limited discovery regarding the extent to which “the Warrant Letter,” was improperly issued. ECF No. 30 at 2. A court may authorize early discovery before the Rule 26(f) conference for the parties’ and witnesses’ convenience and in the interest of justice. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(d). Courts within the Ninth Circuit generally consider whether a plaintiff has shown “good cause” for the early discovery. See, e.g., IO Group, Inc. v. Does 1–65, No. C 10–4377 SC, 2010 WL 4055667, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Oct.15, 2010). The court finds that plaintiff has not shown good cause why early discovery is necessary in this case. Accordingly, the court will deny plaintiff’s motion for declaratory relief.

VII. Plaintiff’s Motion for Sanctions

The court will also deny plaintiff’s motion for sanctions, ECF No. 38, as improperly noticed. Under Local Rule 230(b) motions must set hearing dates for “not less than twenty-eight (28) days after service and filing of the motion.” Plaintiff’s motion scheduled a hearing for sixteen (16) days after the date on which it was filed. Accordingly, the court will vacate the hearing date set for plaintiff’s motion for sanctions and deny his motion as improperly noticed.

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1 CONCLUSION

2 In accordance with the foregoing, THE COURT HEREBY RECOMMENDS that:

3 1. Defendants' motion to dismiss, ECF No. 24, be granted without leave to amend as to
4 plaintiff's claims for violation of the Federal Financial Privacy Act, 12 U.S.C. § 3400 *et seq.*, and
5 42 U.S.C. § 1983 based on Defendant Piroto's investigation of D & I, LLC and D & I.

6 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge
7 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days
8 after being served with these findings and recommendations, plaintiff may file written objections
9 with the court. The document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings
10 and Recommendations." Plaintiff is advised that failure to file objections within the specified
11 time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153
12 (9th Cir. 1991).

13 Further, THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS that:

14 1. Defendants' motion to dismiss, ECF No. 24, is granted with leave to amend as to (a)
15 plaintiff's claims for violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 based on his over-confinement, defendants'
16 failure to provide him with his arrest warrant upon request, denial of medical services, and failure
17 to notify him that he was being investigated; and (b) plaintiff's state law claims for kidnapping
18 and false imprisonment;

19 2. Plaintiff's motion for declaratory relief or, in the alternative, limited discovery, ECF
20 No. 30, is denied and the hearing on that matter scheduled for February 4, 2014, is vacated;

21 3. Plaintiff's motion for sanctions, ECF No. 38, is denied and the hearing on that matter
22 scheduled for January 14, 2015, is vacated;

23 4. Defendants' motion for judicial notice filed on November 17, 2014, ECF No. 24, is
24 granted; and

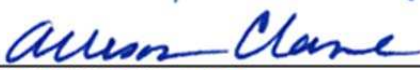
25 5. Both plaintiff's motion for judicial notice filed on November 24, 2014, ECF No. 27,
26 and plaintiff's motion for judicial notice filed on December 29, 2014, ECF No. 38, are denied.

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1 6. The court will set a deadline for plaintiff to file an amended complaint after the district
2 judge rules on the undersigned's findings and recommendations. Until that time, plaintiff should
3 not file an amended complaint.

4 DATED: January 12, 2015

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6 ALLISON CLAIRE
7 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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