

1 At the trial of this case, Plaintiff must be prepared to introduce evidence to prove
2 each of the alleged facts that support the claims raised in the lawsuit. In general, there are two
3 kinds of trial evidence: (1) exhibits; and (2) the testimony of witnesses. It is Plaintiff's
4 responsibility to produce sufficient evidence to prove his case, whether that evidence is in the
5 form of exhibits or witness testimony. If Plaintiff wants to call witnesses to testify, he must
6 follow certain procedures to ensure that the witnesses will be at the trial and available to testify.

7 An incarcerated witness who agrees voluntarily to attend trial to give testimony
8 cannot come to court unless this court orders the warden or other custodian to permit the witness
9 to be transported to court. This Court will not issue such an order (called a writ of habeas corpus
10 ad testificandum) unless it is satisfied that: (1) the prospective witness is willing to attend; and
11 (2) the prospective witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

12 With the pre-trial statement, a party intending to introduce the testimony of
13 incarcerated witnesses who have agreed voluntarily to attend the trial must serve and file a written
14 motion for a court order requiring that such witnesses be brought to court at the time of trial. The
15 motion must:

- 16 1. State the name, CDCR identification number, and address of each such
17 witness; and
- 18 2. Be accompanied by affidavits showing that each witness is willing to
19 testify and that each witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

20 The willingness of the prospective witness can be shown in one of two ways:

- 21 1. The party himself can swear by affidavit that the prospective witness has
22 informed the party that he or she is willing to testify voluntarily without
23 being subpoenaed. The party must state in the affidavit when and where
24 the prospective witness informed the party of this willingness; or
- 25 2. The party can serve and file an affidavit sworn to by the prospective
26 witness, in which the witness states that he or she is willing to testify
27 without being subpoenaed.

28 The prospective witness' actual knowledge of relevant facts can be shown in one of two ways:

- 1 1. The party himself can swear by affidavit that the prospective witness has
2 actual knowledge. However, this can be done only if the party has actual
3 firsthand knowledge that the prospective witness was an eyewitness or an
4 ear-witness to the relevant facts. For example, if an incident occurred in
5 the plaintiff's cell and, at the time, the plaintiff saw that a cellmate was

1 present and observed the incident, the plaintiff may swear to the cellmate's
2 ability to testify; or

- 3 2. The party can serve and file an affidavit sworn to by the prospective
4 witness in which the witness describes the relevant facts to which the
5 prospective witness was an eye- or ear-witness. Whether the affidavit is
6 made by the plaintiff or by the prospective witness, it must be specific
7 about what the incident was, when and where it occurred, who was present,
8 and how the prospective witness happened to be in a position to see or to
9 hear what occurred at the time it occurred.

10 The Court will review and rule on the motion for attendance of incarcerated witnesses, specifying
11 which prospective witnesses must be brought to court. Subsequently, the Court will issue the
12 order necessary to cause the witness' custodian to bring the witness to court.

13 If a party seeks to obtain the attendance of incarcerated witnesses who refuse to
14 testify voluntarily, the party should submit with his pre-trial statement a motion for the attendance
15 of such witnesses. Such motion should be in the form described above. In addition, the party
16 must indicate in the motion that the incarcerated witnesses are not willing to testify voluntarily.

17 As to any witness who is not incarcerated, it is the responsibility of the party
18 seeking the testimony of such witnesses to secure their voluntary attendance and to notify the
19 witness of the time and date of trial. No action need be sought or obtained from the Court. If
20 such witness refuses to testify voluntarily, not earlier than four weeks and not later than two
21 weeks before trial, the party seeking testimony must prepare and submit to the United States
22 Marshal a subpoena for service by the Marshal upon the witness. Blank subpoena forms may be
23 obtained from the Clerk of the Court. Also, the party seeking the witness' presence must pay the
24 witness a fee. The witness fee, paid through the United States Marshal, is \$40.00 for each day of
25 testimony, plus the witness' travel expenses, if the witness is not incarcerated. A subpoena will
26 not be served by the United States Marshal upon a witness who is not incarcerated unless the
27 subpoena is accompanied by a money order made payable to the witness for the full amount of
28 the witness' travel expenses plus the daily witness fee of \$40.00, and a copy of the court's order
granting plaintiff in forma pauperis status. As noted earlier, because no statute authorizes the use
of public funds for these expenses in civil cases, the tendering of witness fees and travel expenses
is required even if the party was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

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Failure to comply with any portion of this order may result in the imposition of appropriate sanctions, including dismissal of the entire action. See Local Rule 110.

Having considered the parties' status reports, the Court will set the following schedule:

1. Plaintiff shall file and serve his pre-trial statement, and any motions necessary to obtain the attendance of witnesses at trial, within 30 days of the date of this order;
2. Defendant shall file his pre-trial statement on or before 30 days from the date of service of Plaintiff's pre-trial statement;
3. A pre-trial conference, as described in Local Rule 282, shall be conducted by the undersigned on the file only, without appearances, following submission of pre-trial statements; and
4. The matter will be set for trial by separate final pre-trial order following the pre-trial conference on the file.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 28, 2021



DENNIS M. COTA
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE