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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

YASIR MEHMOOD,

 Plaintiff,

 v.

TABASSUM SARANI,

 Defendant.

No. 2:17-cv-00970-KJM-AC

ORDER

The court is in receipt of plaintiff’s motion to appoint counsel. ECF No. 66. Plaintiff is bringing his civil case as a self-represented litigant proceeding in forma pauperis. ECF No. 4.

I. Motion

Plaintiff requests that the court appoint counsel, asserting that he is not of sound mind to be making decisions and cannot assist himself in this litigation. ECF No. 66 at 1.

II. Analysis

In civil cases, a pro se litigant's right to counsel “is a privilege and not a right.” United States ex Rel. Gardner v. Madden, 352 F.2d 792, 793 (9th Cir. 1965) (citation omitted). “Appointment of counsel should be allowed only in exceptional cases.” Id. When determining whether “exceptional circumstances” exist, the court must consider the likelihood of success on the merits as well as the ability of the plaintiff to articulate his claims pro se in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved. Palmer v. Valdez, 560 F.3d 965, 970 (9th Cir. 2009).

