

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CYNTHIA HOPSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANDY C.W. FONG, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:19cv1386 KJM CKD

ORDER

Plaintiff initially commenced this action under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) on July 23, 2019. (ECF No. 1.) On September 30, 2019, defendants filed answers to the complaint. (ECF Nos. 5 & 6.)

In the interest of avoiding the accumulation of fees and costs through potentially unnecessary discovery and motion practice, and to allow the parties sufficient time to pursue an early informal resolution of this matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. This action is STAYED except as set forth herein and all previously set deadlines and hearings are VACATED pending further order of the court.
2. The parties are directed to promptly meet and confer to discuss settlement of this action. Settlement discussions require focus and preparation and should involve the attorneys who will try the case and the person or persons having full authority to negotiate and settle the case on any terms. Plaintiff should initiate settlement

1 discussions by providing a written itemization of damages and a meaningful  
2 settlement demand that includes an explanation of why the demand is appropriate.  
3 Defendant should respond with an acceptance of the offer or with a meaningful  
4 counteroffer, and which includes an explanation of why the counteroffer is reasonable.  
5 The parties should continue in this way until they reach settlement or have exhausted  
6 informal settlement efforts.

- 7 3. If the parties have not been able to informally reach a settlement within 45 days, the  
8 parties shall initiate participation in the court's Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program  
9 ("VDRP") by contacting the court's VDRP administrator, Sujean Park, at (916) 930-  
10 4278 or SPark@caed.uscourts.gov.<sup>1</sup>
- 11 4. The parties shall carefully review and comply with Local Rule 271, which outlines the  
12 specifications and requirements of the VDRP.
- 13 5. No later than fourteen (14) days after completion of the VDRP session, the parties  
14 shall jointly file their VDRP Completion Report, consistent with Local Rule 271(o).

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16 DATED: October 8, 2019.

17   
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>1</sup> The resources of the VDRP program are limited, and the parties are expected to make good faith  
27 efforts to timely and fully exhaust informal settlement efforts prior to initiating participation in  
28 the VDRP. The court will look with disfavor upon parties stalling or failing to participate in the  
above-mentioned initial informal discussions, prompting potentially unnecessary participation in  
the VDRP and straining the program's resources.