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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICHARD C. DAVIDSON,
Plaintiff,
v.
ERIC ARNOLD,
Defendant.

Case No. [16-cv-03298-JCS](#) (PR)

**ORDER REOPENING ACTION;
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

Dkt. No. 7

INTRODUCTION

This federal habeas action was dismissed because petitioner failed to pay the filing fee or file a complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Petitioner since has paid the filing fee. (Docket No. 8.) The action is REOPENED. The Clerk is directed to amend the docket accordingly. The judgment (Docket No. 5) and the order of dismissal (Docket No. 4) are VACATED.

Petitioner seeks federal habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 from his state convictions. The petition for such relief is here for review under 28 U.S.C. § 2243 and Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases.

Respondent shall file a response to the petition on or before October 17, 2016.

BACKGROUND

According to the petition, in 2011, a San Benito County Superior Court jury convicted petitioner of child abuse, aggravated assault, and vandalism. On appeal, his convictions were affirmed in part and reversed in part. On remand, he was sentenced to 25 years to life plus 13 years in state prison.

1 **DISCUSSION**

2 This Court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a person
3 in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in
4 custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C.
5 § 2254(a). A district court considering an application for a writ of habeas corpus shall
6 “award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ
7 should not be granted, unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person
8 detained is not entitled thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243. Summary dismissal is appropriate
9 only where the allegations in the petition are vague or conclusory, palpably incredible, or
10 patently frivolous or false. *See Hendricks v. Vasquez*, 908 F.2d 490, 491 (9th Cir. 1990).

11 As grounds for federal habeas relief, petitioner claims that (1) the prosecutor
12 committed misconduct; (2) the trial court failed to instruct the jury on lesser included
13 offenses; (3) there was insufficient evidence to support his conviction for child abuse;
14 (4) the trial court failed to give proper jury instructions on reasonable doubt; (5) defense
15 counsel rendered ineffective assistance; and (6) there was cumulative error. When
16 liberally construed, these claims appear to be cognizable in a federal habeas corpus action.

17 **CONCLUSION**

18 1. The Clerk shall serve a copy of this order, the petition and all attachments
19 thereto, and a Magistrate Judge jurisdiction consent or declination to consent form on
20 respondent and respondent’s counsel, the Attorney General for the State of California. The
21 Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on petitioner.

22 2. Respondent shall file with the Court and serve on petitioner, within sixty (60)
23 days of the date this order is filed, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the
24 Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should
25 not be granted based on petitioner’s cognizable claims. Respondent shall file with the
26 answer and serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the state trial record that previously
27 have been transcribed and that are relevant to a determination of the issues presented by
28 the petition.

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3. If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with the Court and serving it on respondent's counsel within thirty (30) days of the date the answer is filed.

4. In lieu of an answer, respondent may file, within sixty (60) days of the date this order is filed, a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. If respondent files such a motion, petitioner shall file with the Court and serve on respondent an opposition or statement of non-opposition within thirty (30) days of the date the motion is filed, and respondent shall file with the Court and serve on petitioner a reply within fifteen (15) days of the date any opposition is filed.

5. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the Court must be served on respondent by mailing a true copy of the document to respondent's counsel.

6. It is petitioner's responsibility to prosecute this case. Petitioner must keep the Court and respondent informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

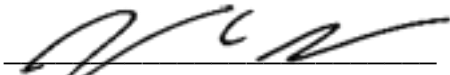
7. Upon a showing of good cause, requests for a reasonable extension of time will be granted provided they are filed on or before the deadline they seek to extend.

8. Petitioner's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Docket No. 7) is DENIED as moot, the filing fee having been paid (Docket No. 8).

9. The Clerk shall terminate Docket No. 7.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 22, 2016



JOSEPH C. SPERO
Chief Magistrate Judge

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on August 22, 2016, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Richard C. Davidson ID: AK4986 B-10-118
California State Prison-Solano
P.O. Box 4000
Vacaville, CA 95696

Dated: August 22, 2016

Susan Y. Soong
Clerk, United States District Court

By: Karen L. Hom
Karen Hom, Deputy Clerk to the
Honorable JOSEPH C. SPERO