

United States District Court
Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LARVESTER J. JOHNSON, JR.,
Plaintiff,
v.
MAGUIRE CORRECTIONAL
FACILITY, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. [18-cv-00366-WHO](#) (PR)

ORDER OF SERVICE;
**ORDER DIRECTING DEFENDANTS
TO FILE A DISPOSITIVE MOTION
OR NOTICE REGARDING SUCH
MOTION;**
INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERK

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Larvester Johnson alleges that his jailors at the Maguire Correctional Facility (“MCF”) violated his constitutional rights by placing him in solitary confinement. His 42 U.S.C. § 1983 civil rights complaint containing these allegations is now before the Court for review pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a).

Having concluded that the operative complaint (Dkt. No. 3) states cognizable claims against defendants, the Court directs defendants to file in response to the complaint a dispositive motion, or notice regarding such motion, on or before **August 6, 2018**, unless an extension is granted. The Court further directs that defendants comply with the notice provisions detailed in Sections 2.a and 10 of the conclusion of this order.

1 **DISCUSSION**

2 **A. Standard of Review**

3 A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a
4 prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a
5 governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any
6 cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim
7 upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune
8 from such relief. *See id.* § 1915A(b)(1), (2). Pro se pleadings must be liberally construed.
9 *See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

10 A “complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a
11 claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
12 (quoting *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). “A claim has facial
13 plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the
14 reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Id.* (quoting
15 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556). Furthermore, a court “is not required to accept legal
16 conclusions cast in the form of factual allegations if those conclusions cannot reasonably
17 be drawn from the facts alleged.” *Clegg v. Cult Awareness Network*, 18 F.3d 752, 754–55
18 (9th Cir. 1994).

19 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential
20 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was
21 violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the
22 color of state law. *See West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

23 **B. Legal Claims**

24 Johnson alleges that in 2017, (i) R. Recorder, a deputy sheriff at MCF, and J. Costa,
25 a “sergeant sheriff” at MCF, directed other sheriff’s deputies to (i) use excessive force
26 against him; (ii) place him in solitary confinement; and (iii) outfit him with “suicide risk
27 safety Ferguson gown,” all without due process and in violation of his First Amendment
28 right to receive stamps and envelopes; and (ii) J. Costa had plaintiff charged with a

1 disciplinary infraction in retaliation for exercising his First Amendment right to receive
2 stamps and envelopes and for exercising his Sixth Amendment right to act as his own
3 lawyer.

4 Claim 1's allegations that Johnson's First, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights
5 were violated state claims for relief, when liberally construed. Claim 2's allegations that
6 plaintiff's First Amendment rights were violated state a claim for relief, when liberally
7 construed.

8 Johnson's Sixth Amendment claims are DISMISSED as conclusory. The
9 allegations lack any description of what lawyerly activities he was seeking to engage in.

10 Maguire Correctional Facility is DISMISSED as a defendant. The Clerk shall add
11 R. Recorder and J. Costa as defendants.

12 **CONCLUSION**

13 For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

14 1. The Clerk of the Court shall issue summons and the United States Marshal
15 shall serve, without prepayment of fees, a copy of the complaint in this matter (Dkt.
16 No. 3), all attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon R. Recorder and J. Costa at
17 the Maguire Correctional Facility. The Clerk shall also mail courtesy copies of the
18 complaint and this order to the California Attorney General's Office.

19 2. On or before **August 6, 2018**, defendants shall file a motion for summary
20 judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the claim(s) in the complaint found to
21 be cognizable above.

22 a. If defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds plaintiff
23 failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C.
24 § 1997e(a), defendants shall do so in a motion for summary judgment, as required by
25 *Albino v. Baca*, 747 F.3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2014).

26 b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate
27 factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of
28 Civil Procedure. Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor

1 qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If any defendant is of the
2 opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, he shall so inform the
3 Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.

4 3. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court
5 and served on defendants no later than forty-five (45) days from the date defendants'
6 motion is filed.

7 4. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than fifteen (15) days after
8 plaintiff's opposition is filed.

9 5. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due.
10 No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

11 6. All communications by the plaintiff with the Court must be served on
12 defendants, or defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true
13 copy of the document to defendants or defendants' counsel.

14 7. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
15 Procedure. No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or Local
16 Rule 16-1 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

17 8. It is plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the
18 court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's orders in a
19 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to
20 prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

21 9. Extensions of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to be
22 extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

23 10. A decision from the Ninth Circuit requires that pro se prisoner-plaintiffs be
24 given "notice of what is required of them in order to oppose" summary judgment motions
25 at the time of filing of the motions, rather than when the court orders service of process or
26 otherwise before the motions are filed. *Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934, 939-41 (9th Cir.
27 2012). Defendants shall provide the following notice to plaintiff when they file and serve
28 any motion for summary judgment:

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The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by which they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact — that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants’ declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.

Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998).

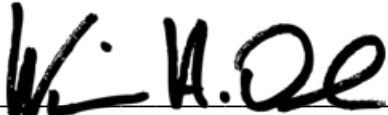
11. It is plaintiff’s responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court’s orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

12. Defendant Maguire Correctional Facility is DISMISSED.

13. The Clerk shall add R. Recorder and J. Costa as defendants.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 1, 2018


WILLIAM H. ORRICK
United States District Judge