

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

3	JOSEPH J. FLOWERS,)	No. C 08-4179 CW (PR)
4	Plaintiff,)	
5	v.)	ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S
6	ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF GREGORY)	MOTIONS FOR COURT-ORDERED
7	AHERN, et al.,)	TELEPHONE ACCESS AND TO
8	Defendants.)	PROPOUND ADDITIONAL
)	INTERROGATORIES; SETTING
)	DISCOVERY AND BRIEFING
)	SCHEDULES

9

10 Plaintiff Joseph J. Flowers, a state prisoner, filed this pro

11 se civil rights action concerning events that took place when he

12 was a pretrial detainee at the Alameda County jail. By Order

13 dated November 24, 2010, the Court ordered Plaintiff's Third

14 Amended Complaint (TAC) served on nine Defendants.

15 Defendants filed a motion for summary judgment on May 13,

16 2011. According to the briefing schedule previously set by the

17 Court, Plaintiff's opposition to Defendants' motion is due no

18 later than sixty days after the filing of Defendants' motion.

19 Now pending before the Court are Plaintiff's discovery-

20 related motions for Court-ordered telephone access and to propound

21 additional interrogatories.

22 For the reasons discussed below, the motions are DENIED.

23 A. Court-Ordered Telephone Access

24 Plaintiff asks the Court to order prison officials at Deuel

25 Vocational Institute, where Plaintiff currently is incarcerated,

26 to provide Plaintiff with one hour per week of telephone access so

27 that Plaintiff may seek the services of a private investigator to

28 find witnesses who have personal knowledge of the events at issue

in the instant action.

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 This case has been pending for almost three years, during
2 which Plaintiff has had ample time to write letters to potential
3 private investigators and/or witnesses, and he is not precluded
4 from doing so at this juncture in the proceedings. Accordingly,
5 the Court finds no good cause to order prison officials to provide
6 Plaintiff with telephone access to which he is not entitled
7 otherwise. Therefore, Plaintiff's request is DENIED.

8 B. Additional Interrogatories

9 Plaintiff has filed a motion asking the Court to allow him to
10 propound additional interrogatories on Defendants. In support of
11 his motion, Plaintiff states the following: (1) on March 5, 2011,
12 he served Defendants with 35 interrogatories; (2) on April 21,
13 2011, Defendants served Plaintiff with their responses to the
14 interrogatories; (3) Defendants did not respond fully to the
15 interrogatories, rather, they raised nine different objections to
16 providing the information requested by Plaintiff; (4) in addition
17 to the nine objections, Defendants informed Plaintiff that, in
18 accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 33(a)(1), they
19 would answer no more than 25 interrogatories.

20 In the instant motion, Plaintiff raises the following
21 concerns: (1) the objections raised by Defendants are inadequate
22 and/or inapplicable to Plaintiff's interrogatories, and
23 (2) Plaintiff needs to propound additional interrogatories because
24 in his first set of interrogatories he erroneously used the wrong
25 date concerning one of the incidents at issue in the instant
26 action, and (3) Plaintiff needs to propound additional
27 interrogatories because he has learned new facts not previously
28 available to him that will allow him to request more specific

1 information from Defendants.

2 Although Plaintiff has not captioned his motion as one to
3 compel discovery, a ruling granting Plaintiff's motion would
4 require Defendants to provide Plaintiff with responses to
5 interrogatories to which Defendants have raised objections. The
6 Court does not have before it any of the original interrogatories
7 or responses, however, and there is no indication from the record
8 that the parties have made any attempt to meet and confer, as is
9 required by Civil Local Rule 37-1 prior to a district court's
10 consideration of a motion to resolve a discovery dispute.

11 Consequently, the Court will neither grant Plaintiff's motion
12 nor require Defendants to respond thereto. Rather, the motion
13 will be DENIED without prejudice and the parties will be required
14 to meet and confer regarding outstanding discovery matters.
15 Where, as here, one of the parties is a prisoner, the Court does
16 not require in-person meetings and instead allows the prisoner and
17 defense counsel to meet and confer by telephone or exchange of
18 letters. Although the format of the meet-and-confer process
19 changes, the substance of the rule remains the same: the parties
20 must engage in a good faith effort to meet and confer before
21 seeking Court intervention in any discovery dispute.

22 Additionally, in order to ensure that further briefing on
23 Defendants' motion for summary judgment is not delayed unduly, the
24 Court will require the parties to comply with the discovery and
25 briefing schedules set forth below.

26 CONCLUSION

27 For the reasons stated above, the Court orders as follows:

28 1. Plaintiff's motion for Court-ordered telephone access is
DENIED.

1 2. Plaintiff's motion to propound additional
2 interrogatories is DENIED.

3 3. The parties shall abide by the following discovery
4 schedule:

5 a. No later than July 5, 2011, the parties shall
6 complete all discovery and shall meet and confer regarding all
7 outstanding discovery matters that the parties have been unable to
8 resolve.

9 b. If Plaintiff intends to file a motion to compel
10 discovery with respect to any unresolved discovery matters, he
11 shall do so, and serve a copy on Defendants, no later than July
12 15, 2011.

13 c. Defendants shall file a response to Plaintiff's
14 motion no later than July 25, 2011.

15 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted on the date
16 the response is filed.

17 4. The parties shall abide by the following briefing
18 schedule:

19 a. Plaintiff shall file with the Court and serve on
20 Defendants his opposition to Defendants' motion for summary
21 judgment no later than August 15, 2011.¹

22 b. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than
23 September 1, 2011.

24 c. The motion for summary judgment shall be deemed
25 submitted on the date the reply is filed.

26 _____
27 ¹Because of the large number of claims in the instant action,
28 Plaintiff is advised that in order to meet the Court's deadline he
should, to the extent possible, begin preparing his opposition
even before all discovery matters have been resolved.

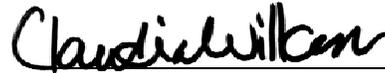
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5. No extensions of time with respect to the above deadlines will be granted absent compelling circumstances.

6. This Order terminates Docket nos. 63 and 68.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 6/23/2011



CLAUDIA WILKEN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE
3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

4 JOSEPH J. FLOWERS,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF et al,

8 Defendant.
_____ /

Case Number: CV08-04179 CW

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

9
10 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

11 That on June 23, 2011, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said
12 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing
13 said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery
14 receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

15 Joseph J. Flowers F82065
16 DVI Prison
17 P.O. Box 600
18 Tracy, CA 95378

19 Dated: June 23, 2011

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
By: Nikki Riley, Deputy Clerk