

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SCOTT WILLIAM DAVIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

No. 09-5798 CW (PR)

ORDER OF SERVICE; AND
DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
ASSISTANT SHERIFF LINDA SUVOY,
et al.,

Defendants.

Plaintiff Scott William Davis has filed this pro se civil rights action concerning events that took place when he was a pretrial detainee in the Sonoma County Jail.¹

Plaintiff has been granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

On April 23, 2010, Plaintiff filed his first amended complaint (FAC).

Venue is proper in this district because the acts complained of occurred in Sonoma County, which is located in this judicial district. See 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

Before the Court is Plaintiff's "Motion for Extension of Time," in which he "respectfully ask[s] the Court to extend time for serving defendants in this case" (Pl.'s Mot. at 1.) Because Plaintiff has been granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis, he is not required to serve Defendants in this action. Therefore, the Court DENIES his motion (docket no. 9) as unnecessary.

¹ Plaintiff does not explicitly state he was a pretrial detainee at the time of the events giving rise to his claims. However, the Court infers this from the allegations in his amended complaint.

BACKGROUND

In his FAC, Plaintiff names the individuals from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department being sued, including: Assistant Sheriff Linda Suvoy; Lt. M. Awad; Mail Department Supervisor Karen Stiny; Sergeant Pederson; Lieutenants House and Toby; Deputy Ardon; Law Librarian Ned Labbe²; as well as "John Does in the Jail mailroom, John Doe Strip Search Officers, and Lt. John Doe." (FAC at 2.) The Court now reviews the FAC and divides his factual allegations into multiple claims, as listed below.

I. Legal Mail - Claim One

Plaintiff was incarcerated at Sonoma County Jail from April 3, 2008 through September 30, 2008 and again from November 30, 2008 through the end of April, 2009. (Id. at 4.) He claims his mail was opened "four times, twice on each stay . . . three (3) times coming in and once while going out." (Id.) Specifically, Plaintiff claims that Defendants Stiny, Awad, Ardon and "John Does in the Jail mailroom" opened or failed to intervene in the opening of his legal mail on June 8, 2008, August 12, 2008, January 30, 2009, and March 17, 2009. (Id. at 4-9.) He alleges that he was "pro per in his criminal case and civil case at this time." (Id. at 4 (citing Case no. C 07-5314 CW (PR)).)

Plaintiff claims that these four instances of his legal mail being opened "caused fear that stopped [his] 1983 action," Case no. C 07-5314 CW (PR), filed against "Sonoma County Probation and [the] Drug Court Treatment Center" for "\$1.7 million." (Id. at 2, 19, 22.) The record shows that on January 28, 2009, Case no. C 07-5314

² In his amended complaint, Plaintiff incorrectly spells Defendant Labbe's name as "Labbae."

1 CW (PR) was "dismissed without prejudice pursuant to Rule 3-11 of
2 the Northern District Local Rules" because sixty days had passed
3 after mail directed to Plaintiff was returned as undeliverable on
4 November 20, 2008. (Jan. 28, 2009 Order in Case no. C 07-5314 CW
5 (PR) at 2.) Therefore, Plaintiff claims that he "has no remedy for
6 [his] forced dropped civil case now" because the "time ha[s]
7 expired to litigate [his] civil case" (FAC at 15, 19.)

8 II. Retaliation, Harassment and Threats - Claim Two

9 Plaintiff claims that Defendants Pederson, Awad, Stiny, House
10 and Ardon "violated [his] rights by threatening him either directly
11 or indirectly for asserting his right to petition the government
12 for a redress of grievances concerning a Section 1983 civil
13 action," Case no. C 07-5314 CW (PR). (Id. at 20 (citing FAC, Ex.
14 J, First Amended Complaint in Case no. C 07-5314 CW (PR)).)
15 Plaintiff claims that his retaliation claim is based on his legal
16 mail being opened four times, Defendant Stiny's failure to
17 intervene in the opening of his mail, his limited law library
18 access, his phone calls being recorded and then taken away "for
19 illegitimate reason[s]," and Defendant Pederson "intimidating"
20 Plaintiff after he complained that Defendant Ardon opened his legal
21 mail on March 17, 2009. (Id. at 20-21.) Plaintiff claims these
22 actions above "amounted to a campaign of harassment." (Id. at 21
23 (citing Bart v. Telford, 677 F.2d 622 (7th Cir. 1982)).) He also
24 sues Defendants Suvoy, Awad, Stiny, Pederson and House in their
25 supervisory capacity for "exhibit[ing] inadequate training,
26 supervision or discipline of the officers under them" (Id.
27 at 21.) Again, Plaintiff claims that Defendants' retaliatory
28 actions "forced [him] to drop his civil suit action," Case no.

1 C 07-5314 CW (PR). (Id. at 22.) Plaintiff also claims that if it
2 were not for the "pressure" put on him, he "might have got[ten] a
3 better recommendation from the Probation Department, not the
4 maximum (8 years +) they asked for in a non-accident 4th DUI case."
5 (Id. at 15.)

6 III. Strip Searches - Claim Three

7 Plaintiff claims that Defendant "John Doe Strip Search
8 Officers" violated his constitutional rights when they conducted
9 two "illegal" strip searches while he was a "DUI predetainee"
10 between November 30, 2008 and April 30, 2009. (FAC at 14, 20.)

11 IV. Denial of Access to the Courts - Claim Four

12 Plaintiff claims he suffered from a lack of access to the
13 courts because in March, 2009 the jail law library paralegal
14 limited his law library access, and Defendants Labbe and Awad
15 limited the amount of copies he could make at the law library.
16 Plaintiff also claims that Defendant Toby "stop[ped] all pro per
17 civil calls while Plaintiff tried to represent himself in his civil
18 case on March 2, 2009."³ (Id. at 13.) Furthermore, Plaintiff has
19 attached the grievance forms he filed relating to the above
20 violations. (FAC, Exs. F, H, I.) The March 9, 2009 response to
21 Plaintiff's grievance relating to the lack of access to the law
22 library in March, 2009 states that there was "no current request
23 for [him] to go to the law library." (FAC, Ex. F.) He was
24 instructed to "put in request forms to go to the law library."
25 (Id.) The March 19, 2009 response to his grievance relating to
26 lack of access to the copier states that Defendant Labbe "refused
27

28 ³ The record shows that in March, 2009, Plaintiff's civil
rights action had already been closed, as mentioned above.

1 to make copies stating that the material [Plaintiff] wished to be
2 copied did not qualify as ones that he would normally copy." (FAC,
3 Ex. H.) The record shows Plaintiff made a request for "fifty (50)
4 copies of [his] court minutes" either to send to his attorney or
5 keep for himself. (Id.) After being told that Defendant Labbe was
6 "not authorized to grant [his] request," Plaintiff was informed
7 that his "attorney can receive [his] court minutes upon request to
8 the courts." (Id.) Finally, in the March 2, 2009 response to the
9 grievance relating to Plaintiff's lack of access to "pro per phone
10 calls," Defendant Toby states: "As we discussed I will grant 5 more
11 calls. However, this will be the last set of calls. After this
12 you can purchase phone cards. Call collect. Write letters."

13 (FAC, Ex. I.)

14 DISCUSSION

15 A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any
16 case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity
17 or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C.
18 § 1915A(a).

19 In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims
20 and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state
21 a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief
22 from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C.
23 § 1915A(b)(1), (2). Pro se pleadings must be liberally construed.
24 Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir.
25 1988).

26 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must
27 allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the
28 Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and

1 (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting
2 under the color of State law. West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48
3 (1988).

4 I. Legal Mail -- Claim One

5 Prisoners enjoy a First Amendment right to send and receive
6 mail. Witherow v. Paff, 52 F.3d 264, 265 (9th Cir. 1995) (citing
7 Thornburgh v. Abbott, 490 U.S. 401, 407 (1989)). A prison,
8 however, may adopt regulations or practices which impinge on a
9 prisoner's First Amendment rights as long as the regulations are
10 "reasonably related to legitimate penological objectives." Turner
11 v. Safley, 482 U.S. 78, 89 (1987).

12 Prison officials may institute procedures for inspecting
13 "legal mail," e.g., mail sent between attorneys and prisoners, see
14 Wolff v. McDonnell, 418 U.S. 539, 576-77 (1974) (incoming mail from
15 attorneys), and mail sent from prisoners to the courts, see Royse
16 v. Superior Court, 779 F.2d 573, 574-75 (9th Cir. 1986) (outgoing
17 mail to court). But the opening and inspecting of "legal mail"
18 outside the presence of the prisoner may have an impermissible
19 "chilling" effect on the constitutional right to petition the
20 government. O'Keefe v. Van Boening, 82 F.3d 322, 325 (9th Cir.
21 1996) (citing Laird v. Tatum, 408 U.S. 1, 11 (1972)). If so,
22 prison officials must establish that legitimate penological
23 interests justify the policy or practice. O'Keefe, 82 F.3d at 327.
24 Generally, "legal mail" may not be read or copied without the
25 prisoner's permission. Casey v. Lewis, 43 F.3d 1261, 1269 (9th
26 Cir. 1994), rev'd on other grounds, 518 U.S. 343 (1996). But
27 again, prison officials may establish that legitimate penological
28 interests justify the policy or practice. O'Keefe, 82 F.3d at 327.

1 Here, Plaintiff's allegations in claim one are sufficient to
2 state a cognizable First Amendment claim against Defendants Stiny,
3 Awad and Ardon for opening or failing to intervene in the opening
4 of Plaintiff's legal mail outside of his presence.

5 II. Retaliation, Harassment and Threats - Claim Two

6 Retaliation by a state actor for the exercise of a
7 constitutional right is actionable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, even if
8 the act, when taken for different reasons, would have been proper.
9 See Mt. Healthy City Bd. of Educ. v. Doyle, 429 U.S. 274, 283-84
10 (1977). "Within the prison context, a viable claim of First
11 Amendment retaliation entails five basic elements: (1) An
12 assertion that a state actor took some adverse action against an
13 inmate (2) because of (3) that prisoner's protected conduct, and
14 that such action (4) chilled the inmate's exercise of his First
15 Amendment rights, and (5) the action did not reasonably advance a
16 legitimate correctional goal." Rhodes v. Robinson, 408 F.3d 559,
17 567-68 (9th Cir. 2005). Accordingly, a prisoner suing prison
18 officials under § 1983 for retaliation must allege he was
19 retaliated against for exercising his constitutional rights and
20 that the retaliatory action did not advance legitimate penological
21 goals, such as preserving institutional order and discipline. See
22 Pratt v. Rowland, 65 F.3d 802, 806 (9th Cir. 1995). The prisoner
23 also must allege the defendants' actions caused him some injury.
24 Resnick v. Hayes, 213 F.3d 443, 449 (9th Cir. 2000).

25 Here, Plaintiff's complaint alleges a cognizable claim that
26 Defendant Ardon retaliated against him for filing his complaint
27 in Case no. C 07-5314 CW (PR) by opening his legal mail on March
28 17, 2009. The other allegation in claim two -- relating to

1 Defendant Pederson "intimidating" Plaintiff after he complained
2 that Defendant Ardon opened his legal mail on March 17, 2009 -- is
3 insufficient to state a cognizable constitutional claim. See
4 Oltarzewski v. Ruggiero, 830 F.2d 136, 139 (9th Cir. 1987) (verbal
5 harassment or abuse is insufficient to amount to a constitutional
6 deprivation). Therefore, the claim based on verbal harassment by
7 Defendant Pederson is DISMISSED without leave to amend.

8 Plaintiff sues Defendants Suvoy, Awad, Stiny, Pederson and
9 House in their supervisory capacity. Plaintiff's supervisory
10 liability claims against Defendants Stiny and Awad are sufficient
11 to proceed. However, Plaintiff does not allege facts demonstrating
12 that the remaining Defendants violated his federal rights, but
13 seems to claim they are liable based on the conduct of their
14 subordinate, Defendant Ardon. There is, however, no respondeat
15 superior liability under § 1983 solely because a defendant is
16 responsible for the actions or omissions of another. See Taylor v.
17 List, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989). A supervisor generally
18 "is only liable for constitutional violations of his subordinates
19 if the supervisor participated in or directed the violations, or
20 knew of the violations and failed to act to prevent them." Id. A
21 supervisor may also be held liable if he or she implemented "a
22 policy so deficient that the policy itself is a repudiation of
23 constitutional rights and is the moving force of the constitutional
24 violation." Redman v. County of San Diego, 942 F.2d 1435, 1446
25 (9th Cir. 1991) (en banc). Plaintiff's supervisory liability claim
26 against Defendants Suvoy, Pederson and House is therefore DISMISSED
27 with leave to amend. He may file an amendment to the complaint
28 that alleges supervisory liability under the standards explained

1 above.

2 III. Strip Searches - Claim Three

3 The Fourth Amendment applies to the invasion of bodily privacy
4 in prisons and jails. Bull v. San Francisco, 595 F.3d 964, 974-75
5 (9th Cir. 2010) (en banc). To analyze a claim alleging a violation
6 of this privacy right, the court must apply the test set forth in
7 Turner v. Safley, 482 U.S. 78, 89 (1987), and determine whether a
8 particular invasion of bodily privacy was reasonably related to
9 legitimate penological interests. See Bull, 595 F.3d at 973.
10 Prisoners and pretrial detainees in institutional settings may be
11 subjected to strip searches and body cavity searches if they are
12 conducted in a reasonable manner. See Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S.
13 520, 561 (1979). The Fourth Amendment right to be secure against
14 unreasonable searches extends to incarcerated prisoners, but the
15 reasonableness of a particular search must be determined by
16 reference to the prison context. See Michenfelder v. Sumner, 860
17 F.2d 328, 332 (9th Cir. 1988).

18 At issue here are two strip searches at a jail. However,
19 Plaintiff does not claim that the strip searches by Defendants
20 "John Doe Strip Search Officers" were unreasonable or conducted in
21 an abusive manner. While he claims the searches were "illegal"
22 (FAC at 20), such conclusory allegations do not amount to a
23 constitutional violation.

24 As noted above, the Court must consider the reasonableness of
25 the searches under Bell to determine if they were reasonably
26 related to legitimate penological interests under Turner. The
27 prisoner bears the burden of showing that prison officials
28 intentionally used exaggerated or excessive means to enforce

1 security in conducting a search. See Thompson v. Souza, 111 F.3d
2 694, 700 (9th Cir. 1997).

3 Even if Plaintiff was strip searched twice, he does not claim
4 that the searches were unreasonable or conducted in an abusive
5 manner. He only alleges that he was "strip searched" twice as a
6 "DUI predetainee." Therefore, he does not allege facts from which
7 it could be inferred that the strip searches violated his Fourth
8 and Fourteenth Amendment rights. Accordingly, Plaintiff's claim
9 relating to the strip searches performed by Defendants "John Doe
10 Strip Search Officers" is DISMISSED for failure to state a claim.

11 IV. Denial of Access to the Courts - Claim Four

12 In Bounds v. Smith, the Supreme Court held "that the
13 fundamental constitutional right of access to the courts requires
14 prison authorities to assist inmates in the preparation and filing
15 of meaningful legal papers by providing prisoners with adequate law
16 libraries or adequate assistance from persons trained in the law."
17 430 U.S. 817, 828 (1977). Subsequently, the Supreme Court
18 clarified that Bounds did not establish a substantive right to law
19 library access, but rather signaled that, in order for prisoners'
20 right of access to the courts to be meaningful, they must be given
21 adequate resources to prepare. See Lewis, 518 U.S. at 350-51. The
22 Court explained:

23 Because Bounds did not create an abstract, freestanding
24 right to a law library or legal assistance, an inmate
25 cannot establish relevant actual injury simply by
26 establishing that his prison's law library or legal
27 assistance program is subpar in some theoretical sense.
28 That would be the precise analog of the healthy inmate
claiming constitutional violation because of the
inadequacy of the prison infirmary. Insofar as the right
vindicated by Bounds is concerned, "meaningful access to
the courts is the touchstone," and the inmate therefore
must go one step further and demonstrate that the alleged
shortcomings in the library or legal assistance program

1 hindered his efforts to pursue a legal claim. He might
2 show, for example, that a complaint he prepared was
3 dismissed for failure to satisfy some technical
4 requirement which, because of deficiencies in the
5 prison's legal assistance facilities, he could not have
6 known. Or that he had suffered arguably actionable harm
7 that he wished to bring before the courts, but was so
8 stymied by inadequacies of the law library that he was
9 unable even to file a complaint.

6 Id. at 351.

7 In the instant case, Plaintiff has not plead any actual harm
8 caused by his alleged lack of access to the prison law library, to
9 the copier or to "pro per phone calls" in March, 2009. While
10 Plaintiff claims that these violations affected his civil action,
11 the record shows that Case no. C 07-5314 CW (PR) was dismissed
12 without prejudice two months earlier -- on January 28, 2009. Thus,
13 Plaintiff's lack of access to the above in March, 2009 could not
14 have affected the status of his closed civil action. Furthermore,
15 a review of the responses to Plaintiff's grievances relating to
16 this issue shows that: (1) he was not refused access to the law
17 library, but, instead, he had not actually submitted a request for
18 such access; (2) Defendant Toby refused to make fifty copies of
19 Plaintiff's "court minutes" because he was not authorized to do so;
20 and (3) Plaintiff was granted five more "pro per phone calls" on
21 March 2, 2009 and was instructed to purchase a phone card if he
22 wished to make any more calls. Therefore, it is clear that his
23 already-closed civil action could not have been hindered based on
24 the alleged violations above. As a result, the Court finds no
25 merit in Plaintiff's allegation that he was unable to pursue his
26 claims due to a lack of access to the law library, the copier, or
27 "pro per phone calls" and that he has suffered no harm from a lack
28 thereof. Therefore, Plaintiff's claim against Defendants Labbe and

1 Toby relating to a denial of access to the courts in March, 2009 is
2 DISMISSED for failure to state a claim.

3 V. Claims Against Doe Defendants

4 Plaintiff identifies Doe Defendants, including "John Does in
5 the Jail mailroom," and "Lt. John Doe," whose names he intends to
6 learn through discovery. The use of Doe Defendants is not favored
7 in the Ninth Circuit. See Gillespie v. Civiletti, 629 F.2d 637,
8 642 (9th Cir. 1980). However, where the identity of alleged
9 defendants cannot be known prior to the filing of a complaint the
10 plaintiff should be given an opportunity through discovery to
11 identify them. Id. Failure to afford the plaintiff such an
12 opportunity is error. See Wakefield v. Thompson, 177 F.3d 1160,
13 1163 (9th Cir. 1999). Accordingly, the claims against these Doe
14 Defendants are DISMISSED from this action without prejudice.
15 Should Plaintiff learn their identity through discovery, he may
16 move to file a second amended complaint to add them as named
17 defendants. See Brass v. County of Los Angeles, 328 F.3d 1192,
18 1195-98 (9th Cir. 2003).

19 CONCLUSION

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

21 1. Plaintiff's allegations in claim one are sufficient to
22 state a cognizable First Amendment claim against Defendants Stiny,
23 Awad and Ardon for opening or failing to intervene in the opening
24 of Plaintiff's legal mail outside of his presence.

25 2. Plaintiff's allegations in claim two state a cognizable
26 retaliation claim against Defendant Ardon -- for retaliating
27 against him for filing his complaint in Case no. C 07-5314 CW (PR)
28 by opening his legal mail on March 17, 2009 -- and against

1 Defendants Stiny and Awad in their supervisory capacity. The other
2 allegation in claim two based on verbal harassment by Defendant
3 Pederson is dismissed without leave to amend.

4 3. Plaintiff's supervisory claims against Defendants Suvoy,
5 Pederson and House in their supervisory capacity are DISMISSED with
6 leave to amend as indicated above. Within thirty (30) days of the
7 date of this Order Plaintiff may file an amended supervisory
8 liability claim against Defendants Suvoy, Pederson and House as set
9 forth above in DISCUSSION, Section II of this Order. Plaintiff
10 shall resubmit only that supervisory liability claim and not the
11 entire complaint. Plaintiff must clearly label the document an
12 "Amendment to the Complaint," and write in the case number for this
13 action, Case No. C 09-5798 CW (PR). The failure to do so will
14 result in the dismissal without prejudice of his supervisory
15 liability claim against Defendants Suvoy, Pederson and House.

16 4. Plaintiff's claim three relating to the strip searches
17 performed by Defendants "John Doe Strip Search Officers" is
18 DISMISSED without leave to amend for failure to state a claim.

19 5. Plaintiff's claim four against Defendants Labbe and Toby
20 relating to a denial of access to the courts in March, 2009 is
21 DISMISSED without leave to amend for failure to state a claim.

22 6. All claims against Doe Defendants, including "John Does
23 in the Jail mailroom," and "Lt. John Doe," are dismissed with leave
24 to move to amend if Plaintiff learns their identity through the
25 discovery process.

26 7. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and
27 Request for Waiver of Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver
28 of Service of Summons, a copy of the amended complaint and all

1 attachments thereto (docket no. 8) and a copy of this Order to
2 Sonoma County Sheriff's Department Lt. M. Awad; Mail Department
3 Supervisor Karen Stiny; and Deputy Ardon. The Clerk of the Court
4 shall also mail a copy of the complaint and a copy of this Order to
5 the Sonoma County Counsel's Office. Additionally, the Clerk shall
6 mail a copy of this Order to Plaintiff.

7 8. Defendants are cautioned that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules
8 of Civil Procedure requires them to cooperate in saving unnecessary
9 costs of service of the summons and complaint. Pursuant to Rule 4,
10 if Defendants, after being notified of this action and asked by the
11 Court, on behalf of Plaintiff, to waive service of the summons,
12 fail to do so, they will be required to bear the cost of such
13 service unless good cause be shown for their failure to sign and
14 return the waiver form. If service is waived, this action will
15 proceed as if Defendants had been served on the date that the
16 waiver is filed, except that pursuant to Rule 12(a)(1)(B),
17 Defendants will not be required to serve and file an answer before
18 sixty (60) days from the date on which the request for waiver was
19 sent. (This allows a longer time to respond than would be required
20 if formal service of summons is necessary.) Defendants are asked
21 to read the statement set forth at the foot of the waiver form that
22 more completely describes the duties of the parties with regard to
23 waiver of service of the summons. If service is waived after the
24 date provided in the Notice but before Defendants have been
25 personally served, the Answer shall be due sixty (60) days from the
26 date on which the request for waiver was sent or twenty (20) days
27 from the date the waiver form is filed, whichever is later.

28 9. Defendants shall answer the complaint in accordance with

1 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The following briefing
2 schedule shall govern dispositive motions in this action:

3 a. No later than ninety (90) days from the date their
4 answer is due, Defendants shall file a motion for summary judgment
5 or other dispositive motion. The motion shall be supported by
6 adequate factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to
7 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56. If Defendants are of the
8 opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they
9 shall so inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment
10 motion is due. All papers filed with the Court shall be promptly
11 served on Plaintiff.

12 b. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion
13 shall be filed with the Court and served on Defendants no later
14 than sixty (60) days after the date on which Defendants' motion is
15 filed. The Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should
16 be given to pro se plaintiffs facing a summary judgment motion:

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

20 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to
21 oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary
22 judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue
of material fact -- that is, if there is no real dispute
23 about any fact that would affect the result of your case,
the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to
24 judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case.
When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary
25 judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or
other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what
26 your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific
facts in declarations, depositions, answers to
27 interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided
in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the
28 defendant's 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

1 you. If summary judgment is granted [in favor of the
2 defendants], your case will be dismissed and there will
3 be no trial.

4 See Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998) (en
5 banc).

6 Plaintiff is advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of
7 Civil Procedure and Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317 (1986)
8 (party opposing summary judgment must come forward with evidence
9 showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element
10 of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that because he bears the
11 burden of proving his allegations in this case, he must be prepared
12 to produce evidence in support of those allegations when he files
13 his opposition to Defendants' dispositive motion. Such evidence
14 may include sworn declarations from himself and other witnesses to
15 the incident, and copies of documents authenticated by sworn
16 declaration. Plaintiff will not be able to avoid summary judgment
17 simply by repeating the allegations of his complaint.

18 c. If Defendants wish to file a reply brief, they shall
19 do so no later than thirty (30) days after the date Plaintiff's
20 opposition is filed.

21 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date
22 the reply brief is due. No hearing will be held on the motion
23 unless the Court so orders at a later date.

24 10. Discovery may be taken in this action in accordance with
25 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Leave of the Court pursuant
26 to Rule 30(a)(2) is hereby granted to Defendants to depose
27 Plaintiff and any other necessary witnesses confined in prison.

28 11. All communications by Plaintiff with the Court must be
served on Defendants, or Defendants' counsel once counsel has been

1 designated, by mailing a true copy of the document to Defendants or
2 Defendants' counsel.

3 12. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case.
4 Plaintiff must keep the Court informed of any change of address and
5 must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion.

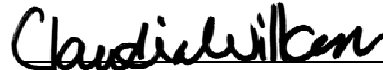
6 13. Extensions of time are not favored, though reasonable
7 extensions will be granted. Any motion for an extension of time
8 must be filed no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the deadline
9 sought to be extended.

10 14. Plaintiff's "Motion for Extension of Time" (docket no. 9)
11 is DENIED as unnecessary.

12 15. This Order terminates Docket no. 9.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 Dated: 3/29/2011



CLAUDIA WILKEN
United States District Judge

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

4 SCOTT WILLIAM DAVIS,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT
8 et al,

9 Defendant.

Case Number: CV09-05798 CW

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

12 That on March 29, 2011, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said
13 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said
14 envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located
15 in the Clerk's office.

16 Scott W. Davis F55132
17 370 Wilson Ln.
18 Windsor, CA 95492

Dated: March 29, 2011

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