

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Northern District of California

Oakland Division

CHRISTINE LYNN HARRIS,

No. C 11-00803 LB

Plaintiff,

v.

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO, *et al.*,**NOTICE REGARDING LEGAL HELP
DESK, HANDBOOK FOR LITIGANTS
WITHOUT A LAWYER, AND LEGAL
STANDARDS FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT MOTIONS**Defendants.
_____ /**I. NOTICE TO PRO SE LITIGANTS**

Because you are representing yourself in this case, the Court issues this notice to you about legal resources available to you and the legal standard that applies to summary judgment motions.

II. RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU

First, the Court attaches a copy of the district court's *Handbook for Litigants Without a Lawyer*. It provides instructions on how to proceed at every stage of your case, including discovery, motions, and trial.

Second, you may wish to seek assistance from the Legal Help Center, a free service of the Volunteer Legal Services Program, by calling 415-782-9000, extension 8657, or by signing up for an appointment on the 15th Floor of the Federal Courthouse in San Francisco, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California. At the Legal Help Center, you will be able to speak with an attorney who may be able to provide basic legal help but not representation. A copy of the Legal

1 Help Center's flyer is attached.

2 **III. SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

3 The following is a notice that this Court gives to litigants representing themselves when the other
4 files a motion for summary judgment. Because your case has just been filed, no motion has been
5 filed yet, but this notice will explain to you the process if a motion is filed.

6 If the other party in this case files a motion for summary judgment, that motion -- if granted --
7 will result in the dismissal of your case. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 tells you what you must
8 do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be
9 granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact. What that means is that if there is no real
10 dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary
11 judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which ends your case. When a party you are
12 suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other
13 sworn testimony),¹ you cannot just rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out
14 specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as
15 provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts in Defendant's declarations and documents and show
16 that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in
17 opposition, the Court might -- if it is appropriate -- enter summary judgment against you and in favor
18 of the other party.

19 If the Court grants summary judgment in favor of the other party, your case will be dismissed,
20 and there will be no trial. *See Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). You
21 should read Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317 (1986)
22 (which discusses how the party who opposes summary judgment must come forward with evidence
23 showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim). If you do not file

24 _____
25 ¹ A declaration is a statement of facts. The person making the declaration must know those
26 facts personally, and they must be facts that can be admitted into evidence. That means that they
27 must be facts as opposed to conclusions, argument, opinion, or hearsay. A declaration must be made
28 under penalty of perjury, which means that the person making the declaration must sign it and date
the declaration after the following statement: "I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing
is true and correct. Dated _____. Signed _____." "

1 your opposition, the Court still will consider whether summary judgment is appropriate under Rule
2 56, but your failure may be construed as consent by you to this Court's granting the other party's
3 motion for summary judgment. That in turn will result in the dismissal of your case before trial. *See*
4 *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (*per curiam*); *Brydges v. Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651,
5 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

6 Dated: April 1, 2011



LAUREL BEELER
United States Magistrate Judge