

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
3 JONATHAN L. MACKSON, SR., No. C 11-0868 SBA (PR)
4 Plaintiff, ORDER OF SERVICE
5 v.
6 RANDY GROUNDS, et al.,
7 Defendants.

INTRODUCTION

10 Plaintiff, a state prisoner currently incarcerated at the California Institution for Men, has
11 filed a pro se civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging that Defendants were
12 deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs while he was incarcerated at the Correctional
Training Facility (CTF) from 2010 through 2011.

His motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis has been granted.

Venue is proper because the events giving rise to the claim are alleged to have occurred at CTF, which is located in this judicial district. See 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

In his complaint, Plaintiff names the following Defendants: CTF Warden Randy Grounds; Inmate Appeals Branch Appeals Examiner K. J. Allen; Inmate Appeals Branch Chief D. Foster; CTF Chief Medical Officer J. Chudy; CTF Chief Executive Officer G. Ellis; and CTF Medical Doctor R. Lim Javate.¹ Plaintiff seeks monetary damages and injunctive relief.

DISCUSSION

I. Standard of Review

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary

¹ Plaintiff's handwriting makes it difficult to decipher the spelling of the last name of Defendant "R. LIMJAVATE." (Compl. at 1, 3.) However, "Lim Javate" is the Court's best interpretation of the spelling of this Defendant's last name.

1 relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. Id. § 1915A(b)(1), (2). Pro se pleadings
2 must be liberally construed. Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

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

7 **II. Legal Claims**

8 **A. Injunctive Relief Claims**

9 Plaintiff seeks both injunctive relief and money damages. The jurisdiction of the federal
10 courts depends on the existence of a "case or controversy" under Article III of the Constitution.
11 PUC v. FERC, 100 F.3d 1451, 1458 (9th Cir. 1996). A claim is considered moot if it has lost its
12 character as a present, live controversy, and if no effective relief can be granted: "Where the
13 question sought to be adjudicated has been mooted by developments subsequent to filing of the
14 complaint, no justiciable controversy is presented." Flast v. Cohen, 392 U.S. 83, 95 (1968). Where
15 injunctive relief is involved, questions of mootness are determined in light of the present
16 circumstances. See Mitchell v. Dupnik, 75 F.3d 517, 528 (9th Cir. 1996).

17 When an inmate has been transferred to another prison and there is no reasonable
18 expectation nor demonstrated probability that he will again be subjected to the prison conditions
19 from which he seeks injunctive relief, the claim for injunctive relief should be dismissed as moot.
20 See Dilley v. Gunn, 64 F.3d 1365, 1368-69 (9th Cir. 1995). A claim that the inmate might be re-
21 transferred to the prison where the injury occurred is too speculative to overcome mootness. Id.

22 When Plaintiff filed his original complaint, he was incarcerated at CTF. He alleged
23 unconstitutional conditions of confinement during the period of his confinement at CTF from 2010
24 through the date his complaint was filed, February 23, 2011. Plaintiff sought injunctive relief to
25 remedy these alleged injuries. On May 25, 2011, Plaintiff informed the Court he had been
26 transferred to the California Institution for Men. Because Plaintiff has not been incarcerated at CTF
27 since at least May, 2011, to the extent he seeks injunctive relief from the conditions of his

1 confinement at CTF, those claims are DISMISSED as moot.² The Court proceeds to review
2 Plaintiff's remaining claims for damages.

3 **B. Deliberate Indifference Claim**

4 Deliberate indifference to serious medical needs violates the Eighth Amendment's
5 proscription against cruel and unusual punishment. See Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 104 (1976);
6 McGuckin v. Smith, 974 F.2d 1050, 1059 (9th Cir. 1992), overruled on other grounds, WMX
7 Technologies, Inc. v. Miller, 104 F.3d 1133, 1136 (9th Cir. 1997) (en banc); Jones v. Johnson, 781
8 F.2d 769, 771 (9th Cir. 1986). A determination of "deliberate indifference" involves an examination
9 of two elements: the seriousness of the prisoner's medical need and the nature of the defendant's
10 response to that need. See McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1059. A "serious" medical need exists if the
11 failure to treat a prisoner's condition could result in further significant injury or the "unnecessary
12 and wanton infliction of pain." Id. (citing Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. at 104). A prison official is
13 deliberately indifferent if he or she knows that a prisoner faces a substantial risk of serious harm and
14 disregards that risk by failing to take reasonable steps to abate it. Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825,
15 837 (1994).

16 Plaintiff claims that he "has mobility impairments as his right leg is shorter than his left leg"
17 and that since his arrival at CTF "he has been trying to obtain orthopedic shoes." (Compl. at 3, Ex.
18 A.) He suffered "severe pain" from being forced to wear "medical boots that are to[o] damaged to
19 serve the original intent of its designed purpose." (Compl. at 3.) Liberally construed, his claim that
20 his "feet are getting worse" because he "must wear orthopedic shoes/booth [sic] due to his right leg
21 being shorter than left, fallen arches [on] both feet & planterflesheites³ [sic]" supports an inference
22 that he has serious medical needs. (Id. (footnoted added).) Furthermore, Plaintiff's allegations that
23 prison "medical staff [and] appeals staff" failed to provide adequate medical treatment for his foot

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25 ² Moreover, should Plaintiff seek to allege that some or all of his claims extend to the conditions
26 of his confinement at the California Institution for Men in Chino, those claims must be brought in a
27 separate lawsuit in the Eastern Division of the United States District Court for the Central District of
28 California, the proper venue for claims arising in San Bernadino County, where Chino is located. See
28 U.S.C. § 1391(b); 28 U.S.C. § 84(c).

28 ³ "Plantar fasciitis" is inflammation of the thick tissue on the bottom of the foot.

1 problems -- while he was housed at CTF from 2010 to 2011 -- state a cognizable deliberate
2 indifference claim against Defendants Allen, Foster, Chudy, Ellis, and Lim Javate. Accordingly,
3 this claim may proceed against these Defendants.

4 **C. Supervisory Liability Claim**

5 While Plaintiff claims that "the warden" was "aware that they have no contract with any
6 medical shoe vendor," (compl. at 3), he makes no specific allegations against Defendant Grounds,
7 the current warden of CTF. Thus, Plaintiff seems to be suing Defendant Grounds in his supervisory
8 capacity. Plaintiff does not allege facts demonstrating that Defendant Grounds violated his federal
9 rights, but seems to claim Defendant Grounds is liable based on the conduct of his subordinates, the
10 CTF Defendants named above. There is, however, no respondeat superior liability under § 1983
11 solely because a defendant is responsible for the actions or omissions of another. See Taylor v. List,
12 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989). A supervisor generally "is only liable for constitutional
13 violations of his subordinates if the supervisor participated in or directed the violations, or knew of
14 the violations and failed to act to prevent them." Id. A supervisor may also be held liable if he or
15 she implemented "a policy so deficient that the policy itself is a repudiation of constitutional rights
16 and is the moving force of the constitutional violation." Redman v. County of San Diego, 942 F.2d
17 1435, 1446 (9th Cir. 1991) (en banc).

18 Plaintiff's claim against Defendant Grounds is therefore dismissed with leave to amend. He
19 may file an amendment to the complaint that alleges supervisory liability under the standards
20 explained above.

21 **CONCLUSION**

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

- 23 1. Plaintiff's claims for injunctive relief are DISMISSED.
- 24 2. Plaintiff states a cognizable Eighth Amendment claim for deliberate indifference to
25 serious medical needs against Defendants Allen, Foster, Chudy, Ellis, and Lim Javate.
- 26 3. Plaintiff's supervisory liability claim against Defendant Grounds is DISMISSED
27 WITH LEAVE TO AMEND as indicated above.
- 28 4. Within **thirty (30) days** of the date of this Order Plaintiff may file an amended

1 supervisory liability claim against Defendant Grounds as set forth above in Sections II(C) of this
2 Order. (Plaintiff shall resubmit only his supervisory liability claim and not the entire complaint.)
3 The failure to do so will result in the dismissal without prejudice of the supervisory liability claim
4 against Defendant Grounds.

5. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of
6 Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a copy of the complaint and
7 all attachments thereto (docket no. 4) and a copy of this Order to **Inmate Appeals Branch Appeals
Examiner K. J. Allen; Inmate Appeals Branch Chief D. Foster, CTF Chief Medical Officer J.
Chudy, CTF Chief Executive Officer G. Ellis, and CTF Medical Doctor R. Lim Javate**. The
8 Clerk of the Court shall also mail a copy of the complaint and a copy of this Order to the State
9 Attorney General's Office in San Francisco. Additionally, the Clerk shall mail a copy of this Order
10 to Plaintiff.

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

25. Defendants shall answer the complaint in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
26 Procedure. The following briefing schedule shall govern dispositive motions in this action:

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

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

11 The defendant has made a motion for summary judgment by which they seek
12 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.

13 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary
14 judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine
15 issue of material fact -- that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would
16 affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled
17 to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are
18 suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by
19 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 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 you. If summary judgment is granted [in favor of the defendants], your case
will be dismissed and there will be no trial.

¹¹ See Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc).

22 Plaintiff is advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Celotex
23 Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (party opposing summary judgment must come forward with
24 evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is
25 cautioned that because he bears the burden of proving his allegations in this case, he must be
26 prepared to produce evidence in support of those allegations when he files his opposition to
27 Defendants' dispositive motion. Such evidence may include sworn declarations from himself and
28 other witnesses to the incident, and copies of documents authenticated by sworn declaration.

1 Plaintiff will not be able to avoid summary judgment simply by repeating the allegations of his
2 complaint.

3 c. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **thirty (30) days** after the date
4 Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

5 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due.

6 No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

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

10 9. All communications by Plaintiff with the Court must be served on Defendants, or
11 Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the document to
12 Defendants or Defendants' counsel.

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

17 11. Extensions of time are not favored, though reasonable extensions will be granted.
18 Any motion for an extension of time must be filed no later than **fifteen (15) days** prior to the
19 deadline sought to be extended.

20 DATED: 10/25/11


21 SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG
22 United States District Judge

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

5 JONATHAN L MACKSON SR,

6 Plaintiff,

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8 / et al,

9 Defendant.

Case Number: CV11-00868 SBA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

12 That on October 27, 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
15 located in the Clerk's office.

16 Jonathan L. Mackson D-98163
17 Cedar Hall A-107L
18 P.O. Box 600
19 Chino, CA 91708

20 Dated: October 27, 2011

21
22 Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
23 By: LISA R CLARK, Deputy Clerk