

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17

NOT FOR CITATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TOY TERRELL SMITH,	)	No. C 10-03684 JF (PR)
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	ORDER OF SERVICE; DIRECTING
	)	DEFENDANTS TO FILE DISPOSITIVE
vs.	)	MOTION OR NOTICE REGARDING
	)	SUCH MOTION; INSTRUCTIONS TO
	)	CLERK
K. CRUSE, et al.,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
_____	)	

18  
19 Plaintiff, a California inmate currently incarcerated at the Corcoran State Prison,  
20 filed the instant civil rights action in pro se pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against prison  
21 officials at Pelican Bay State Prison (“PBSP”) for unconstitutional acts. Plaintiff has paid  
22 the filing fee.

23  
24 **DISCUSSION**

25 **A. Standard of Review**

26 A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a  
27 prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a  
28 governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify

1 any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a  
2 claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is  
3 immune from such relief. See id. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must, however, be  
4 liberally construed. See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir.  
5 1988).

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

#### 10 **B. Plaintiff's Claims**

11 Plaintiff alleges that on PBSP officials, defendants K. Cruse and D. Melton,  
12 violated his Eighth Amendment rights by their failure to ensure his safety and security  
13 needs where a known prisoner enemy was transferred into the same facility as himself  
14 and a physical altercation ensued. (Compl. at 13.) Plaintiff also alleges that defendant N.  
15 Navarro violated his right to procedural due process by making false allegations in a  
16 disciplinary hearing over the physical altercation between Plaintiff and other prisoners.  
17 (Id. at 14.) Liberally construed, these claims are cognizable under § 1983.

18 Plaintiff names Defendants John Does I, II, III and IV in his complaint. Although  
19 the use of "John Doe" to identify a defendant is not favored in the Ninth Circuit, see  
20 Gillespie v. Civiletti, 629 F.2d 637, 642 (9th Cir. 1980); Wiltsie v. Cal. Dep't of  
21 Corrections, 406 F.2d 515, 518 (9th Cir. 1968), situations may arise where the identity of  
22 alleged defendants cannot be known prior to the filing of a complaint. In such  
23 circumstances, the plaintiff should be given an opportunity through discovery to identify  
24 the unknown defendants, unless it is clear that discovery would not uncover their  
25 identities or that the complaint should be dismissed on other grounds. See Gillespie, 629  
26 F.2d at 642; Velasquez v. Senko, 643 F. Supp. 1172, 1180 (N.D. Cal. 1986).

27 Accordingly, Defendant John Does are DISMISSED from this action. If through  
28 discovery Plaintiff is able to identify the unknown defendants, he may then motion the

1 Court for leave to amend to name the intended defendants and to issue summons upon  
2 them. See Gillespie, 629 F.2d at 642; Barsten v. Dep't of the Interior, 896 F.2d 422,  
3 423-24 (9th Cir. 1990).

## 4 5 CONCLUSION

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

7 1. The Clerk of the Court shall issue summons and the United States Marshal  
8 shall serve, without prepayment of fees, a copy of the complaint in this matter, all  
9 attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon **Defendants K. Cruse, D. Melton and**  
10 **N. Navarro** at the **Pelican Bay State Prison**. The Clerk shall also mail courtesy copies  
11 of the Complaint and this order to the California Attorney General's Office.

12 Defendant John Does I, II, III and IV are DISMISSED from this action. The Clerk  
13 shall terminate these defendants from the docket.

14 2. No later than **sixty (60) days** from the date of this order, Defendants shall  
15 file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the claims  
16 in the complaint found to be cognizable above, or, within such time, notify the Court that  
17 Defendants are of the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by such a motion.

18 a. If Defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds that  
19 Plaintiff failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C.  
20 § 1997e(a), Defendants shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion pursuant to  
21 Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d 1108, 1119-20 (9th Cir. 2003), cert. denied Alameida v.  
22 Terhune, 540 U.S. 810 (2003).

23 b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate  
24 factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of  
25 Civil Procedure. **Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted,**  
26 **nor qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If Defendants are of**  
27 **the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so**  
28 **inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.**

1           3.       Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court  
2 and served on Defendants no later than **thirty (30) days** from the date Defendants'  
3 motion is filed.

4           a.       In the event Defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss  
5 under Rule 12(b), Plaintiff is hereby cautioned as follows:<sup>1</sup>

6                   The Defendants have made a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule  
7 12(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on the ground you have not  
8 exhausted your administrative remedies. The motion will, if granted, result  
9 in the dismissal of your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion  
10 to dismiss for failure to exhaust, and that motion is properly supported by  
11 declarations (or other sworn testimony) and/or documents, you may not  
12 simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific  
13 facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or documents,  
14 that contradict the facts shown in the Defendant's declarations and  
15 documents and show that you have in fact exhausted your claims. If you do  
16 not submit your own evidence in opposition, the motion to dismiss, if  
17 appropriate, may be granted and the case dismissed.

18           b.       In the event Defendants file a motion for summary judgment, the  
19 Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to Plaintiff:

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

24                   Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for  
25 summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when  
26 there is no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute  
27 about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked  
28 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  
in favor of defendants, your case will be dismissed and there will be no  
trial.

25 See Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc).

---

26  
27 <sup>1</sup> The following notice is adapted from the summary judgment notice to be given to pro  
28 se prisoners as set forth in Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc).  
See Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d at 1120 n.14.

1 Plaintiff is advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and  
2 Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment  
3 must come forward with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every  
4 essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that failure to file an opposition to  
5 Defendants' motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a consent by Plaintiff to  
6 the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against plaintiff without a trial. See  
7 Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); Brydges v. Lewis, 18  
8 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

9 4. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **fifteen (15) days** after  
10 Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

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

13 6. All communications by the Plaintiff with the Court must be served on  
14 Defendants, or Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true  
15 copy of the document to Defendants or Defendants' counsel.

16 7. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil  
17 Procedure. No further Court order is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

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

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 DATED: 1/25/11  
24 \_\_\_\_\_

25   
26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 JEREMY FOGEL  
28 United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TOY TERRELL SMITH,  
Plaintiff,

Case Number: CV10-03684 JF

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

v.

K CRUSE, et al.,

Defendants.

---

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

That on 2/14/11, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Toy Terrell Smith D-92679  
Corcoran State Prison  
P.O. Box 3481  
4B2left Cell #57  
Corcoran, CA 93212-3456

Dated: 2/14/11

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk