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United States District Court
Northern District of California

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JASON SMITH,
Plaintiff,
v.
A. TAMAYO, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 19-00537 BLF (PR)

**ORDER OF SERVICE; DIRECTING
DEFENDANTS TO FILE
DISPOSITIVE MOTION OR
NOTICE REGARDING SUCH
MOTION; INSTRUCTIONS TO
CLERK**

Plaintiff, a state prisoner at the Correctional Training Facility (“CTF”) in Soledad, filed the instant *pro se* civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against CTF prison officials and the Chief of the Office of Appeals in Sacramento. Plaintiff’s motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* will be addressed in a separate order.

DISCUSSION

A. 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. *See* 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

1 upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune
2 from such relief. *See id.* § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must, however, be liberally
3 construed. *See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

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

8 **B. Plaintiff's Claims**

9 Plaintiff claims that he is a practicing member of the Rastafarian religion, i.e., “The
10 House of the Lion of Judah.” (Compl. Attach. at 4.) On March 26, 2018, he applied for a
11 Kosher diet which he claims is consistent with his religious beliefs. (*Id.*) On April 16,
12 2018, Plaintiff was interviewed by Pastor B. D. Min, not a party to this action, who
13 informed him that a decision would be made by the Religious Review Committee (“RRC”)
14 which was comprised of Defendants A. Tamayo, Y. Friedman and “other unknown
15 defendants.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff’s request was denied by Defendant Tamayo, the Community
16 Resources Manager, on July 28, 2018, based on the fact that Plaintiff had purchased “non
17 Kosher food.” (*Id.* at 5; Compl., Ex. A at 10.) Plaintiff asserts that it is his sincere belief
18 that eating a Kosher diet is consistent with his faith, and that the lack of a Kosher diet has
19 placed a substantial burden on him. (Compl. Attach. at 5, 7.) Plaintiff also claims that
20 Defendants acted with an intent or purpose to discriminate against him, and that they failed
21 to afford him the rights they afford other religions, i.e., Jews and Muslims. (*Id.* at 6.)
22 Defendant Tamayo denied Plaintiff’s inmate appeal on the matter in the second level
23 appeal decision, which was also reviewed by Defendant M. Atchley, Chief Deputy
24 Warden. (Compl., Ex. A at 7-8.) Defendant M. Voong denied the appeal at the third level
25 review. (*Id.* at 5-6.) Plaintiff claims that Defendant Y. Friedman is liable as a member of
26 the RRC which denied his request for a Kosher diet. (Compl. Attach. at 3.) Based on the
27 foregoing, Plaintiff claims that Defendants Tamayo, Friedman, Voong, and Atchley

1 violated his rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments and the Religious Land Use
2 and Institutionalized Persons Act (“RLUIPA”). (Compl. Attach. at 2-3.)

3 Based on these allegations, the Court finds the following claims are cognizable: (1)
4 a violation of Plaintiff’s First Amendment right to the free exercise of his religion, *see*
5 *Shakur v. Schriro*, 514 F.3d 878, 883-84 (9th Cir. 2008); (2) a violation of Equal
6 Protection based on the allegation that Plaintiff was discriminated against and was denied
7 rights that are afforded other religions, *see Freeman v. Arpaio*, 125 F.3d 732, 737 (9th Cir.
8 1997), *abrogated on other grounds by Shakur*, 514 F.3d at 884-85; and (3) a violation of
9 Plaintiff’s rights under RLUIPA based on his claim that the denial of a Kosher diet created
10 a “substantial burden” on the exercise of his religion, 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc-1(a).

11
12 **CONCLUSION**

13 For the reasons state above, the Court orders as follows:

14 1. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for
15 Waiver of Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a copy
16 of the complaint, all attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon **Defendants**
17 **Deputy Warden M. Atchley, A. Tamayo, and Y. Friedman** at the **Correctional**
18 **Training Facility (P.O. Box 686, Soledad, CA 93960-0686)**, and **M. Voong** at the **Office**
19 **of Appeals (P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 94283-0001)**. The Clerk shall also mail
20 a copy of this Order to Plaintiff.

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

10 3. No later than **ninety-one (91) days** from the date this order is filed,
11 Defendants shall file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with
12 respect to the claims in the amended complaint found to be cognizable above.

13 a. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate
14 factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of
15 Civil Procedure. Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor
16 qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If any Defendant is of the
17 opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, he shall so inform the
18 Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.

19 b. **In the event Defendants file a motion for summary judgment, the**
20 **Ninth Circuit has held that Plaintiff must be concurrently provided the appropriate**
21 **warnings under *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). See**
22 ***Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934, 940 (9th Cir. 2012).**

23 4. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court
24 and served on Defendants no later than **twenty-eight (28) days** from the date Defendants'
25 motion is filed.

26 Plaintiff is also advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and
27 *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment

1 must come forward with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every essential
2 element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that failure to file an opposition to
3 Defendants' motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a consent by Plaintiff to
4 the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against Plaintiff without a trial. *See*
5 *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53–54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); *Brydges v. Lewis*, 18
6 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

7 5. Defendants *shall* file a reply brief no later than **fourteen (14) days** after
8 Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

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

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


14 8. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
15 Procedure. No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or Local
16 Rule 16-1 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

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

21 10. Extensions of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to be
22 extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24 **Dated:** May 13, 2019


BETH LABSON FREEMAN
United States District Judge