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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STEVEN E. RILEY,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
S. KERNAN, *et al.*,  
Defendants.

Case No.: 3:16-cv-00405-MMA-AHG

**ORDER:**

- (1) DENYING MOTION TO REOPEN DISCOVERY WITHOUT PREJUDICE; and**
- (2) SETTING DEADLINE TO SEND JOINT EMAIL TO COURT PER CHAMBERS RULES**

**[ECF No. 113]**

1 Before the Court is Plaintiff’s Motion to Reopen Discovery (ECF No. 113), filed on  
2 January 3, 2022. Plaintiff is currently incarcerated at the Calipatria State Prison and was  
3 previously proceeding *pro se*, until the Court appointed him pro bono counsel on  
4 December 15, 2021. *See* ECF No. 107. Plaintiff was appointed counsel after the Court  
5 denied Defendants’ summary judgment motion in part, making the case ripe to proceed to  
6 trial.<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff now seeks to reopen discovery to develop facts needed for trial, given that  
7 he was previously limited with respect to the discovery he could conduct when proceeding  
8 *pro se* and *in forma pauperis*. *See generally* ECF No. 113-1.

9 The Court finds that Plaintiff’s Motion to Reopen Discovery was filed prematurely  
10 and must be **DENIED without prejudice**. Pursuant to the undersigned’s Chambers Rules,<sup>2</sup>  
11 parties may not file disputed discovery motions until the Court has conducted a pre-motion  
12 telephonic conference. *See* Chmbr. R. at 3. Specifically, before filing any motion on a  
13 discovery issue, the movant must first meet and confer with the opposing side to attempt  
14 to reach agreement. If the parties do not agree, the parties must then email chambers at  
15 [efile\\_Goddard@casd.uscourts.gov](mailto:efile_Goddard@casd.uscourts.gov) to request a telephonic conference. *Id.* In the email, the  
16 parties must include (1) three proposed times mutually agreed upon for the conference; (2)  
17 a neutral statement of the dispute; and (3) one sentence describing each party’s position.  
18 *Id.* “No discovery motion may be filed until the Court has conducted its pre-motion  
19 conference, unless the movant has obtained leave of Court.” *Id.*

20 Plaintiff’s counsel did not call chambers for a hearing date or otherwise seek leave  
21 of Court to file Plaintiff’s Motion to Reopen Discovery. Accordingly, the Court **DENIES**  
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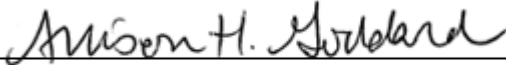
23  
24 <sup>1</sup> The Court’s ruling on Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment is currently on appeal  
25 to the Ninth Circuit. ECF No. 111.

26 <sup>2</sup> Magistrate Judge Allison H. Goddard’s Chambers Rules governing civil cases can be  
27 found at:  
28 <https://www.casd.uscourts.gov/judges/goddard/docs/Goddard%20Civil%20Pretrial%20Procedures.pdf>.

1 the Motion (ECF No. 113) **without prejudice**. Counsel for Plaintiff must meet and confer  
2 with defense counsel to determine whether Defendants will agree to reopening discovery.  
3 If they do not agree, counsel should send a **joint** email to Judge Goddard's chambers in  
4 compliance with the Chambers Rules no later than **January 18, 2022**.<sup>3</sup> The Court will then  
5 promptly set a telephonic conference, during which the Court will likely set a briefing  
6 schedule for a joint motion on the dispute (unless an agreement is reached during the call).

7 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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9 Dated: January 4, 2022

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12 Honorable Allison H. Goddard  
13 United States Magistrate Judge  
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27 <sup>3</sup> Although Defendant has filed an appeal, this case is not stayed. The Court expects all  
28 counsel to participate fully in the meet-and-confer process. Any failure to do so could result  
in sanctions.