

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

PATRICK ALAN SOURANDER,

Plaintiff,

No. 18-11162

v.

District Judge Gershwin A. Drain  
Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen

SHERIFF HOWARD HANFT,  
ET AL.,

Defendants.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**ORDER**

Plaintiff Patrick Alan Sourander, who has filed a *pro se* civil complaint, has moved for the appointment of counsel [Doc. #3].<sup>1</sup>

Unlike criminal cases, there is no constitutional or statutory right to the appointment of counsel in civil cases. Rather, the Court requests members of the bar to assist in appropriate cases. In *Lavado v. Keohane*, 992 F.2d 601, 605-606 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1993), the Sixth Circuit noted that “[a]ppointment of counsel in a civil case is not a constitutional right. It is a privilege that is justified only by exceptional circumstances.” (Internal quotations and citations omitted).

It is the practice of this Court to defer any attempt to obtain counsel for *pro se* civil rights Plaintiffs until after motions to dismiss or motions for summary judgment have been denied. At this point, Plaintiff’s motion is premature. If his case survives dispositive motions, he may renew his request for counsel at that time.

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<sup>1</sup> The motion for counsel is contained within Plaintiff’s response to the Defendants’ motion for more definite statement. By separate order, I have granted the Defendants’ motion.

Accordingly, Plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel [Doc. #3] is DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.<sup>2</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 25, 2018

s/R. Steven Whalen  
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R. STEVEN WHALEN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify on June 25, 2018 that I electronically filed the foregoing paper with the Clerk of the Court sending notification of such filing to all counsel registered electronically. I hereby certify that a copy of this paper was mailed to non-registered ECF participants on June 25, 2018.

s/Carolyn M. Ciesla  
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Case Manager for the  
Honorable R. Steven Whalen

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<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff also requests an "extension of time," although it is unclear what he needs an extension of time for. If he is referring to an extension to file a more definite statement, I have, by separate order, given him 30 days to do that. To that extent, the present request for extension is denied as moot.