

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

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APRINTESS WILLIAMS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

STATE OF NEVADA, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:16-cv-1283-VCF

**ORDER**

MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT [ECF No. 63]  
AND MOTION TO SEAL [ECF No. 68]

Before the Court is Defendants Officers Krook and Chandler's Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 63) and Plaintiff Aprintess Williams' Motion to Redact Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment and to Seal Exhibit 5 Thereto (ECF No. 68). For the reasons discussed below, the Court grants in part and denies in part Krook and Chandler's motion for summary judgment and grants Williams' motion to redact and seal.

**BACKGROUND**

**I. Complaint and First Motion for Summary Judgment**

In his amended complaint, Williams brings civil rights and intentional infliction of emotional distress (IIED) claims against Krook and Chandler.<sup>1</sup> (ECF No. 13 at 1-2, 6). The complaint asserts that in June 2016, officers working for the Department of Parole and Probation drove Williams "around Las Vegas for...five (5) hours in handcuffs, without food or water" while searching various locations Williams allegedly had access to. (Id. at 2, 4-5). Officers did not take action when Williams "told the officers he did not feel well and demanded he be taken to the Clark County Detention Center." (Id. at 5). Williams

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<sup>1</sup> The other Defendants named in the amended complaint have been dismissed from this case. (ECF No. 9 at 2).

1 eventually passed out and “was diagnosed with having heat stroke.” (Id. at 6). Williams asserts he has  
2 suffered “humiliation, anxiety and a loss of sleep” as a result of the officers’ actions. (Id. at 7).

3 Krook and Chandler filed a previous motion for summary judgment on September 20, 2017, before  
4 any discovery had taken place in the case. (ECF No. 37). Based on Williams’ complaint and declaration  
5 attached to his opposition to the motion, the Court found questions of fact remained and denied the motion  
6 for summary judgment as to Williams’ deliberate indifference and IIED claims. (ECF No. 56 at 8-10).

## 7 **II. Discovery**

8 Since the Court decided Krook and Chandler’s previous motion for summary judgment, the parties  
9 have conducted some discovery in this case, including the depositions of the parties and key witnesses.  
10 Based on discovery, the facts of the underlying incident, construed in Plaintiff’s favor, are as follows:

11 On June 10, 2014, at approximately 1:00 pm, Williams went to an appointment with his parole  
12 officer, Officer Krook. (ECF No. 63-1 at 8). Krook was in training, and his supervisor was Officer  
13 Chandler. (ECF No. 66-1 at 10). After about 20 minutes, Williams was handcuffed by Krook and taken  
14 outside to a covered parking deck for officers to search his car. (ECF No. 63-1 at 9-10). They were  
15 outside for 20-30 minutes. (Id.). They then went back inside for approximately 30-45 minutes, while  
16 Williams was still handcuffed. (Id. at 10-11). Williams testified that during this period, he asked Krook  
17 for water because he was thirsty and sweating excessively, but that request was denied. (Id. at 11, 17).

18 Between 2:20-2:35 pm, Chandler left the Parole and Probation office with Williams and two other  
19 officers—Erickson<sup>2</sup> and Hendrickson, neither of which is named as a defendant in this case. (Id.; ECF  
20 No. 63-4 at 3). At the time Williams left the office, he testified he was feeling “parched after standing  
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24 <sup>2</sup> There appears to be some confusion over whether the fourth officer involved in the underlying incident was Erickson or  
25 McIntosh. However, it is not disputed that the fourth officer is not named as a defendant, and the exact identity of the fourth  
officer does not impact the motion for summary judgment.

1 out, I was thirsty... But I guess other than that at that time just dehydrated I guess. A little thirsty.” (ECF  
2 No. 63-1 at 12). Krook remained at the office. (ECF No. 63-1 at 14). While Krook was aware the officers  
3 and Williams would be visiting Williams’ home, he did not know about any other planned visits. (ECF  
4 No. 63-2 at 3). Hendrickson knew that there would be visits to other locations at the time that they left  
5 the Parole and Probation office. (ECF No. 66-3 at 5-6). Chandler made the decision to search the other  
6 locations (ECF No. 63-3 at 3), and Hendrickson stated he was “just doing what Officer Chandler told  
7 [him] to do.” (ECF No. 66-4 at 16).

8 For the rest of the relevant timeframe, Williams rode in a vehicle with Erickson and Hendrickson  
9 while Chandler rode in a separate vehicle. (ECF No. 63-1 at 11). Hendrickson testified at his deposition  
10 that the car was “relatively cool” and “pretty nice.” (ECF No. 63-4 at 3). Williams asserts that the air  
11 conditioning was “insufficient, like it wasn’t working properly.” (ECF No. 63-1 at 12).

12 The officers and Williams went to three locations. First, they went to a Wells Fargo bank. (Id.).  
13 While waiting, Williams asked Erickson, Hendrickson, and Chandler for water, but the officers said they  
14 could not provide any. (Id. at 14). After sitting handcuffed in the car, Williams told the officers that he  
15 felt faint and could not feel his arms because the handcuffs were too tight. (ECF No. 66-3 at 4).  
16 Eventually, Williams was un-cuffed and taken inside the bank for 5-10 minutes by Chandler, Erickson,  
17 and Hendrickson. (ECF No. 63-1 at 12). Williams testified that this made him feel “totally humiliated”  
18 because the officers essentially “assassinated [his] character.” (Id. at 14-15). Afterwards, Williams was  
19 re-cuffed. (Id. at 12). While at the bank, Williams told officers that he was short of breath, dizzy, thirsty,  
20 and in pain, and “begged Officer Chandler to release [him] or take [him] to jail so that [he] could get  
21 medical attention.” (ECF No. 66-3 at 4). Prior to returning to the car, Williams told Hendrickson and  
22 Erickson that he was dizzy and wanted to go to the hospital. (ECF No. 63-1 at 13). He was told to speak  
23 to Chandler. (Id.).  
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1 The officers and Williams next went to the residence of an associate of Williams. (Id. at 12-13).  
2 Once they got to the next location, Williams again asked to be taken to the hospital because he was dizzy  
3 and not feeling well, but was told to “be quiet and wait.” (Id.). He told Chandler that he was “dehydrated,  
4 [his] shoulders were numb, and [he] needed food.” (ECF No. 66-3 at 5). Williams stayed in the car,  
5 handcuffed, with either Erickson or Hendrickson for 30-40 minutes. (ECF No. 63-1 at 13).

6 Finally, the officers and Williams went to Williams’ home. (Id.). The drive took 40 minutes, and  
7 Williams waited in the car an additional 20-30 minutes once they got there, all while handcuffed. (Id.).  
8 At Williams’ house, Hendrickson informed Chandler that Williams was overheated. (ECF No. 66-4 at  
9 14). Hendrickson does not remember ever telling Chandler that Williams was asking for water. (Id.).  
10 Williams was taken inside his home, still handcuffed, where he passed out. (ECF No. 63-1 at 13).  
11 Hendrickson testified that Williams exclaimed that he was dying and could not breathe. (ECF No. 66-3  
12 at 7, 9). The officers summoned an ambulance at 5:28 pm, which took Williams to the hospital. (Id. at  
13 7-9; ECF No. 63-6). Doctors informed Williams that the loss of consciousness was likely brought on by  
14 heat exposure or exhaustion. (ECF No. 66-3 at 4; ECF No. 67-5 at 3). Since then, Williams testified that  
15 he has had anxiety and loss of sleep. (ECF No. 63-1 at 14).

### 17 **III. Second Motion for Summary Judgment**

18 On July 9, 2018, Defendants filed a second motion for summary judgment. (ECF No. 63).  
19 Defendants argue that Williams did not have an objectively serious medical condition during his time with  
20 either Krook or Chandler. (Id. at 9-11). Defendants also assert that they did not act with a sufficiently  
21 culpable state of mind, because other non-defendant officers had a greater knowledge of Williams’  
22 condition. (Id. at 11-14). Finally, Defendants argue that Plaintiff has failed to establish a claim for IIED  
23 because Williams did not suffer severe distress and Defendants’ conduct was not sufficiently extreme or  
24 outrageous. (Id. at 15-17).

1 On August 14, 2018, Williams filed a response (ECF No. 66) and a motion to seal (ECF No. 68).  
2 Williams argues that Krook and Chandler were deliberately indifferent to Williams' condition while he  
3 was in their custody, whether or not Williams was outside their physical presence. (Id. at 11-15). Williams  
4 also asserts questions of material fact remain regarding Williams' emotional distress. (Id. at 15-17).

5 In addition to the arguments described above, the Court also considered Defendant's reply (ECF  
6 No. 70) and the arguments of counsel during the September 7, 2018 hearing (ECF No. 72).

### 7 **MOTION TO REDACT AND SEAL**

8 "The court recognizes that the need to protect medical privacy has qualified as a 'compelling  
9 reason,' for sealing records in connection with a dispositive motion." Williams v. Nevada Dep't of Corr.,  
10 No. 2:13-CV-941-JAD-VCF, 2014 WL 3734287, at \*1 (D. Nev. July 29, 2014). In addition, Defendants  
11 filed a non-opposition to Plaintiff's motion (ECF No. 69), and "[t]he failure of an opposing party to include  
12 points and authorities in response to any motion constitutes a consent to granting the motion." LCR 47-  
13 3.

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15 The Court grants Plaintiff's motion to redact his opposition and seal Exhibit 5 to the extent that  
16 they discuss Plaintiff's medical history. Plaintiff's opposition was docketed twice as ECF Nos. 66 and  
17 67. ECF No. 66 was not filed under seal. It was redacted and Exhibit 5 was omitted from the attachments  
18 with the indication that it would be filed under seal. ECF No. 67 was filed under seal. It is unredacted  
19 and Exhibit 5 is included. Therefore, ECF No. 67 will remain under seal in this case.

### 20 **MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

21 "The court shall grant summary judgment if the movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as  
22 to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a). At  
23 summary judgment, the court's role is not to weigh the evidence, make credibility determinations, or  
24 determine the truth. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). "Summary judgment is  
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1 appropriate when, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party, there is no  
2 genuine dispute as to any material fact.” *Zetwick v. Cty. of Yolo*, 850 F.3d 436, 440 (9th Cir. 2017)  
3 (quoting *United States v. JP Morgan Chase Bank Account No. Ending 8215*, 835 F.3d 1159, 1162 (9th  
4 Cir. 2016)). “The district court must not only properly consider the record on summary judgment, but  
5 must consider that record in light of the governing law.” *Id.* at 442 (internal citation omitted).

#### 6 **I. Deliberate Indifference Claims**

7 Detainees who have “been neither charged nor convicted of a crime” have a due process right that  
8 protects them from the government’s “failure to provide care for serious medical needs.” *Lolli v. Cty. of*  
9 *Orange*, 351 F.3d 410, 418-19 (9th Cir. 2003). To prevail on a deliberate indifference claim, a plaintiff  
10 must establish he was “(1) confined under conditions posing a risk of objectively, sufficiently serious  
11 harm and (2) that the officials had a sufficiently culpable state of mind in denying the proper medical  
12 care.” *Id.* at 419 (internal quotations omitted).<sup>3</sup> “[I]f a person is aware of a substantial risk of serious  
13 harm, a person may be liable for neglecting a prisoner's serious medical needs on the basis of either his  
14 action or his inaction.” *Id.* (internal quotations omitted). However, “[e]ven if a prison official should have  
15 been aware of the risk, if he ‘was not, then [he] has not [been deliberately indifferent], no matter how  
16 severe the risk.” *Peralta v. Dillard*, 744 F.3d 1076, 1086 (9th Cir. 2014) (quoting  
17 *Gibson v. Cnty. of Washoe*, 290 F.3d 1175, 1188 (9th Cir.2002)).

18  
19 Williams has provided sufficient evidence to create a question of fact regarding whether he was  
20 confined under conditions posing a risk of objectively, sufficiently serious harm. He testified during his  
21 deposition that over the space of approximately four-and-a-half hours, he was kept outside or in a car with  
22 insufficient air conditioning with brief trips indoors. He was not provided any water during this period.  
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25 <sup>3</sup> The Court finds the standard set for in *Lolli* is more applicable to this case than the standard Defendants cite in *Wilson v. Seiter*, 501 U.S. 294 (1991).

1 Hendrickson confirmed that Williams complained about the heat several times and asked for water.  
2 Williams was kept handcuffed for several hours and complained about not feeling well due to his  
3 confinement. Afterwards, Williams lost consciousness and had to be taken to the hospital. Doctors  
4 informed Williams that the loss of consciousness was likely brought on by heat exposure or exhaustion.

5         However, Krook and Chandler argue that they were not responsible for the conditions of Williams’  
6 confinement, and they did not have a sufficiently culpable state of mind in denying Williams medical care.  
7 Krook only interacted with Williams at the Parole and Probation office. Chandler drove in a separate car  
8 than Williams and interacted with Williams for a few relatively short periods during the four-and-a-half  
9 hours. The officers who transported Williams and spent the most time with him, Hendrickson and  
10 Erickson, are not defendants in this case.

11         The Court finds Krook is entitled to summary judgment on Williams’ deliberate indifference  
12 claim. Williams’ allegations against Krook focus on (1) denying Williams water while at the Parole and  
13 Probation office and (2) handcuffing Williams. Though Krook denied Williams water, this denial did not  
14 pose a risk of objectively, sufficiently serious harm at the time the denial was made. Williams was inside  
15 the office (which no one argues was hot) for approximately an hour and outside in a covered parking  
16 structure for approximately half an hour. While Krook was the first officer to handcuff Williams, Krook  
17 did not know about the three different locations Williams would be transported to. In addition, Williams  
18 was uncuffed when he got to Wells Fargo and recuffed by another officer. That action ended Krook’s  
19 impact on Williams’ health. Krook was not responsible for the other officers’ actions. Though Krook  
20 was the officer assigned to Williams, Krook was still being trained by Chandler, who eventually took  
21 custody of Williams.  
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23         The Court finds that genuine disputes as to material facts remain in Williams’ deliberate  
24 indifference claim against Chandler. Williams’ allegations against Chandler focus on (1) actions taken  
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1 by Chandler, individually, and (2) actions taken by other officers during their transportation of Williams.  
2 Williams testified at his deposition that he asked Chandler for water. Hendrickson testified at his  
3 deposition that he told Chandler that Williams was overheated. In his Declaration,<sup>4</sup> Williams stated that  
4 he directly asked Chandler to take him to the hospital or jail to get medical attention. Taking all these  
5 allegations together, there is a question of fact as to whether Chandler was aware that failing to respond  
6 to Williams' complaints posed a risk of objectively, sufficiently serious harm to Williams' health.<sup>5</sup>

7 There is also a question of fact regarding Chandler's responsibility for the actions of Erickson and  
8 Hendrickson. "Supervisors aren't vicariously liable for constitutional violations under section  
9 1983. *Peralta v. Dillard*, 744 F.3d 1076, 1085 (9th Cir. 2014). However,

10 A defendant may be held liable as a supervisor under § 1983 if there exists  
11 either (1) his or her personal involvement in the constitutional deprivation,  
12 or (2) a sufficient causal connection between the supervisor's wrongful  
13 conduct and the constitutional violation. The requisite causal connection  
14 can be established by setting in motion a series of acts by others, or by  
15 knowingly refusing to terminate a series of acts by others, which the  
16 supervisor knew or reasonably should have known would cause others to  
17 inflict a constitutional injury. A supervisor can be liable in his individual  
18 capacity for his own culpable action or inaction in the training, supervision,  
19 or control of his subordinates; for his acquiescence in the constitutional  
20 deprivation; or for conduct that showed a reckless or callous indifference to  
21 the rights of others."

22 *Starr v. Baca*, 652 F.3d 1202, 1207-08 (9th Cir. 2011) (internal quotes and citations omitted). Even if  
23 Chandler did not have significant personal contact with Williams during the incident, Chandler could be

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24 <sup>4</sup> Though a declaration or affidavit is self-serving and uncorroborated, it still must be considered by the court if it contains facts  
25 within the declarant's personal knowledge that would be admissible into evidence. See *Reynaga v. Roseburg Forest Prod.*,  
847 F.3d 678, 693 (9th Cir. 2017).

<sup>5</sup> The Court does not agree with Defendants' assertion at the September 7, 2018 hearing that Williams only had a serious  
medical condition once he lost consciousness. Losing consciousness was the final symptom of Williams' health condition,  
heat exposure or exhaustion, rather than the cause of it.



1 liable for failing to supervise the officers assisting him and ensuring that they did not ignore Williams’  
2 health concerns.

3 Chandler also argues that even if a violation of Williams’ rights occurred, he has qualified  
4 immunity. “The determination of qualified immunity necessitates three inquiries: (1) the identification of  
5 the specific right allegedly violated; (2) the determination of whether that right was so ‘clearly established’  
6 as to alert a reasonable officer to its constitutional parameters; and (3) the ultimate determination of  
7 whether a reasonable officer could have believed lawful the particular conduct at issue.” *Sloman v.*  
8 *Tadlock*, 21 F.3d 1462, 1467 (9th Cir. 1994). The Court previously determined that Williams’ right to  
9 care for serious medical needs was well-established. (ECF No. 56 at 6). “A line of Ninth Circuit cases  
10 holds that the qualified immunity determination should be made by the jury if it is based on facts which  
11 are genuinely in dispute,” such as the officer’s knowledge and what the officer did or did not do. *Sloman*,  
12 21 F.3d at 1467. The Court finds that qualified immunity in this case cannot be resolved in a motion for  
13 summary judgment, as it is highly fact-intensive.

## 14 **II. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Claims**

15 Under Nevada law, the elements of an IIED claim are: “(1) extreme and outrageous conduct with  
16 either the intention of, or reckless disregard for, causing emotional distress, (2) the plaintiff’s having  
17 suffered severe or extreme emotional distress and (3) actual or proximate causation.” *Dillard Dep’t Stores,*  
18 *Inc. v. Beckwith*, 115 Nev. 372, 378, 989 P.2d 882, 886 (1999) (quoting *Star v. Rabello*, 97 Nev. 124, 125,  
19 625 P.2d 90, 92 (1981)). The showing of severe or extreme emotional distress is somewhat lessened in  
20 cases where Defendants’ actions caused a “physical impact to the Plaintiff.” *Kennedy v. Carriage*  
21 *Cemetery Servs., Inc.*, 727 F. Supp. 2d 925, 933-34 (D. Nev. 2010); see also *Olivero v. Lowe*, 116 Nev.  
22 395, 400, 995 P.2d 1023, 1026 (2000) (explaining that the physical manifestation requirement is more  
23 relaxed for damage claims involving assault)).  
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1 The Court finds Krook is entitled to summary judgment on Williams' IIED claim. As previously  
2 discussed, there is insufficient evidence that Krook confined Williams in a manner that posed a risk of  
3 serious harm. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence that Krook committed extreme and outrageous  
4 conduct resulting in emotional distress.

5 The Court finds that genuine disputes as to material facts remain in Williams' IIED claim against  
6 Chandler. As previously discussed, Williams allegations regarding Chandler's conduct could demonstrate  
7 that Chandler knowingly confined Williams in a manner that posed a risk of serious harm. This would  
8 constitute extreme and outrageous conduct with either the intention of, or reckless disregard for, causing  
9 emotional distress. Williams alleges that as a result of this conduct, he suffered from heat exposure or  
10 exhaustion and felt serious anxiety and fear after the event. The combination of physical and emotional  
11 harm suffered by Williams are sufficient to support an IIED claim at this time.

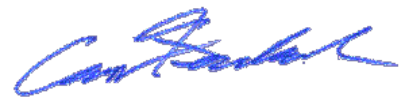
12 ACCORDINGLY, and for good cause shown,

13 IT IS ORDERED that Krook and Chandler's Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 63) is  
14 GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART. The motion is granted as to the claims against Krook  
15 and denied as to the claims against Chandler. All claims against Krook are hereby DISMISSED.

16 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Williams' Motion to Redact Plaintiff's Opposition to  
17 Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment and to Seal Exhibit 5 Thereto (ECF No. 68) is GRANTED.

18 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the parties' Joint Pretrial Order is due by October 10, 2018.

19 DATED this 10th day of September, 2018.  
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24 CAM FERENBACH  
25 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE