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 18 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 19 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

20 KARISMA GARCIA,

21 Plaintiff,

22 vs.

23 STATE OF NEVADA, et al.,

24 Defendants.

Case No. 2:17-cv-00359-APG-VCF

**STIPULATION AND ORDER TO
 EXTEND DISCOVERY DEADLINES
 AND DISPOSITIVE MOTION
 DEADLINES
 (THIRD REQUEST)**

25
 26 Defendants Brian Williams, Isidro Baca, Megan Sullivan, Daron Franklin, Lisa
 27 Walsh, James Cox, James Dzurenda, Dwight Neven, Romeo Aranas, Gregory Bryan,
 28 Jennifer Nash, Laurie Hoover, and Sheryl Foster, by and through Aaron D. Ford, Attorney

1 General for the State of Nevada, and Christopher M. Guy, Deputy Attorney General, and
2 Plaintiff Karisma Garcia (Garcia), by and through her counsel, Lisa Rasmussen
3 (Rasmussen) of the Law Offices of Kristina Wildeveld & Associates, agree and stipulate to
4 the following amendments to the Courts' Amended Scheduling Order¹; and request the
5 Court enter a third amended scheduling order.

6 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

7 **I. Background**

8 Garcia filed a complaint in this matter in 2017.² The case underwent this Court's
9 screening process and a mediation conference was scheduled for July 2019.³ Rasmussen
10 entered her appearance for Garcia just before the early mediation conference (EMC) and
11 represented Garcia at the EMC.⁴ Although the parties participated in good faith, the
12 parties did not reach a settlement.⁵ Defendants filed an answer to Garcia's complaint
13 shortly thereafter.⁶ The Court then granted the parties proposed scheduling order in May
14 2020.⁷

15 In early July, the parties stipulated to extend the discovery deadlines and dispositive
16 motions deadline, which this Court granted. ⁸ The Court, subsequently, granted the parties
17 second request for extension in October.⁹ Current defense counsel joined the Office of the
18 Attorney General (OAG) November 30, 2020, and was shortly thereafter assigned the
19 defense of this matter.¹⁰ Counsel for both parties have been diligently been working to
20 coordinate efforts to complete discovery in a timely matter, since current defense counsel
21 was assigned this matter .¹¹ *Currently, discovery deadlines are as follows: Discovery closes*

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23 ¹ ECF No. 46.

² ECF No. 1-1.

³ ECF No. 4.

⁴ ECF No. 15.

⁵ ECF No. 20.

⁶ ECF No. 29.

⁷ ECF No. 30; 31.

⁸ ECF No. 40.

⁹ ECF No. 46

¹⁰ On November 24, 2020, a Change of Deputy Attorney General was filed a week before current
24 counsel joined the OAG.

¹¹ EX. A (Defense Counsel Declaration).

1 on January 8, 2021; dispositive motions are due February 8, 2021; and the joint pretrial
 2 order is due on March 10, 2021.¹² Unfortunately several factors have prevented the parties
 3 efforts: 1) counsel was only recently appointed to defend this matter and thus needs
 4 additional time to review the case, (2) due to Governor Sisolak's Stay at Home 2.0 order,
 5 counsel has been required to work from home, which reduced access to case files, and (3)
 6 unforeseen delay in the exchange of medical records, and (4) due to the upcoming holidays,
 7 the OAG will be closed.¹³ As a result of the aforementioned, the parties submit this
 8 Stipulation.

9 **II. Legal Standard**

10 **A. Rule 6(b), Fed. R. Civ. Proc.**

11 Rule 6(b)(1), Fed. R. Civ. Pro., governs extensions of time:

12 When an act may or must be done within a specified time, the
 13 court may, for good cause, extend the time: (A) with or without
 14 motion or notice if the court acts, or if a request is made, before
 15 the original time or its extension expires; or (B) on motion made
 after the time has expired if the party failed to act because of
 excusable neglect.

16 Under Rule 6, good cause is not a rigorous or high standard, and courts have
 17 construed the test broadly. *Ahanchion v. Xenon Pictures, Inc.*, 624 F.3d 1253, 1259
 18 (9th Cir. 2010). Rule 6(b) “[is] to be liberally construed to effectuate the general purpose of
 19 seeing that cases are tried on the merits.” *Rodgers v. Watt*, 722 F.2d 456, 459 (9th Cir.
 20 1983); *Wong v. Regents of the Univ. of Calif.*, 410 F.3d 1052, 1060 (9th Cir. 2005) (“Of course,
 21 courts should not mindlessly enforce deadlines.”). In general, an application for extension
 22 of time under Rule 6(b)(1)(A) will be granted in the absence of bad faith. *Ahanchion*, 624
 23 F.3d at 1259 (quoting 4B Charles Alan Wright & Arthur R. Miller, *Federal Practice and*
 24 *Procedure* § 1165 (3d ed. 2004)) (internal quotations omitted).

25 **Local Rules 26¹⁴**

26 ¹² ECF No. 46.

27 ¹³ The OAG observes the two upcoming Nevada holidays, which will close the office: Christmas on
 Friday, December 25 and New Years on Friday, January 1.

28 ¹⁴ “A motion or stipulation to extend time must state the reasons for the extension requested and
 must inform the court of all previous extensions of the subject deadline the court granted.” LR IA 6-1.

1 LR 26-3. EXTENSION OF SCHEDULED DEADLINES:

2 A motion or stipulation to extend any date set by the discovery
 3 plan, scheduling order, or other order must, in addition to
 4 satisfying the requirements of LR IA 6-1, be supported by a
 5 showing of good cause for the extension. A motion or stipulation
 6 to extend a deadline set forth in a discovery plan must be
 7 received by the court no later than 21 days before the expiration
 8 of the subject deadline. A request made within 21 days of the
 9 subject deadline must be supported by a showing of good cause.
 10 A request made after the expiration of the subject deadline will
 11 not be granted unless the movant also demonstrates that the
 12 failure to act was the result of excusable neglect. A motion or
 13 stipulation to extend a discovery deadline or to reopen discovery
 must include:

9 (a) A statement specifying the discovery completed;

10 (b) A specific description of the discovery that remains to
 be completed;

11 (c) The reasons why the deadline was not satisfied or the
 12 remaining discovery was not completed within the time
 limits set by the discovery plan; and

13 (d) A proposed schedule for completing all remaining
 discovery.^[15]

14 **III. Legal Analysis**

15 **A. Local Rule 26-3 Requirements**

16 **1. The Discovery completed to date**

17 To date, Garcia disclosed all of the documents in her possession on July 6, 2020.
 18 Defendants disclosed all of the documents in its possession on August 11, 2020. Although
 19 Defendants diligently worked to obtain all of Garcia's prison medical files, it nonetheless
 20 took additional time and effort.¹⁶ Having received all required medical release forms,
 21 Defendants will mail a burned CD or flash drive to Rasmussen the week of December 28th.¹⁷
 22 In the meantime, Defendants have emailed a PDF copy of Garcia's medical file to
 23 Rasmussen on December 23, 2020.

24
 25 ¹⁵ Nevada Local Court Rules 26-4

26 ¹⁶ Garcia is no longer in custody, which resulted in substantial effort and time to obtain the medical
 file. However, the records were obtained approximately on September 30, 2020.

27 ¹⁷ Defendants received Garcia's medical release form on November 5, 2020. Rasmussen requested the
 28 file be sent as CD or flash drive. However, due to Defendants limited access to office, we cannot fulfill her
 request until after the 28th. To prevent further delay, Defendants have emailed a PDF version of the medial
 file and will mail the medical records as soon as practicable.

1 **2. Discovery that remains to be completed**

2 Garcia has been unable to schedule depositions because she has not been able to
3 review the medical file. Garcia anticipates that she may take two depositions, and if
4 information gleaned from those depositions merit additional depositions, she would
5 consider additional depositions. Defendant anticipates taking the deposition of Plaintiff.
6 However, further discovery may be required if applicable.

7 **3. The reason the Dispositive motion deadline cannot be**
8 **completed**

9 As detailed above, the case has moved forward with little delay. The parties have
10 worked diligently in their prosecution of this matter. However, several factors exist as to
11 why the parties were unable to meet the current deadlines: (1) counsel was only recently
12 appointed to defend this matter and thus needs additional time to review the case, (2) due
13 to Governor Sisolak's Stay at Home 2.0 order, counsel has been required to work from home,
14 which reduced access to case files, (3) due to the upcoming holiday, the Office of the Nevada
15 Attorney General will be closed, and (4) delays related to the transfer of medical files and
16 medical releases have delayed progress.

17 **4. Proposed discovery schedule**

18 Deadline to Complete Discovery: **March 1, 2021**

19 Deadline for Dispositive Motions: **April 1, 2021**

20 Deadline for Joint Pretrial Order: **May 8, 2021.**

21 **B. Good Cause Supports the Extension**

22 This Court should find good cause supports this Stipulation because the parties have
23 labored under certain difficulties as the result of the COVID-19 restrictions. Further,
24 Garcia has not had time to review and reflect on her medical file. Additionally, since
25 defense counsel took over defense duties, the parties have been working together to assess
26 the current deadlines and make necessary arrangements. As such, it was not possible to
27 file a stipulation earlier. Moreover, depositions have not been scheduled because the parties
28

1 did not have the necessary records to move forward. Consequently, the parties require
2 additional time to fulfill their obligations and engage in further discovery.

3 **IV. CONCLUSION**

4 For the foregoing reasons, the parties respectfully request that the Court grant the
5 parties Stipulation to Extend Discovery Deadlines and Dispositive Motion Deadlines (third
6 request).

8 Dated 30th day of December, 2020. 9 By: <u>/s/ Lisa A. Rasmussen</u> 10 Lisa A. Rasmussen, Esq. 11 Law Offices of Kristina Wildeveld & 12 Associates 13 550 E. Charleston Blvd. 14 Las Vegas, NV 89101 www.veldlaw.com <i>Attorneys for Plaintiff</i>	8 Dated 30th day of December, 2020. 9 By: <u>/s/ Christopher M. Guy</u> 10 Christopher M. Guy, Esq. 11 Deputy Attorney General 12 Office of the Nevada Attorney General 13 555 E. Washington Avenue, #3900 14 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 <i>Attorneys for Defendants</i>
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17 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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20 _____
21 Cam Ferenbach
22 United States Magistrate Judge

23 Dated: 12-30-2020
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