Slocumb v. Ozmint et al

| IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT | RECEIVED USDC. CLERK. CHARLESTON |
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| FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA | 2009 OCT 17 A № 4 |

| Conrad L. Slocumb, #197165, Plaintiff, |) CIVIL ACTION NO. 9:07-3903-HMH-BM) |
|---|--|
| v. |) |
| |) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION |
| Director Jon E. Ozmint, |) |
| Director for SCDC; |) |
| Robert Ward, Deputy Director |) |
| for SCDC; and Bernard McKie, |) |
| Warden at KCI SCDC, |) |
| |) |
| Defendants. |) |
| | |

The <u>pro se</u> Plaintiff brought this action seeking relief pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 1983. On June 5, 2008, the Defendants filed a motion for summary judgment. By order of this Court filed June 9, 2008, pursuant to <u>Roseboro v. Garrison</u>, 528 F.2d 309 (4th Cir. 1975), the Plaintiff was advised of the dismissal and summary judgment procedures and the possible consequences if he failed to respond adequately.

However, notwithstanding the specific warning and instructions as set forth in the Court's Roseboro order, the Plaintiff failed to respond to the motion for summary judgment. As the Plaintiff is proceeding pro se, the court filed a second order on July 24, 2008, advising Plaintiff that it appeared to the Court that he was not opposing the motion and wished to abandon this action, and giving the Plaintiff an additional ten (10) days in which to file his response to the Defendants' motion for summary judgment. The Plaintiff was also specifically warned that if he failed to respond, this action would be recommended for dismissal with prejudice for failure to prosecute. Davis v.

Williams, 588 F.2d 69, 70 (4th Cir. 1978), Rule 41(b) Fed.R.Civ.P.

Notwithstanding this second warning, the Plaintiff still failed to file any response, or to contact the Court in any way. Therefore, a Report and Recommendation that this action be dismissed for lack of prosecution was entered by the undersigned on August 12, 2008. Plaintiff was granted ten (10) days in which to file any objections to the Report and Recommendation, and Plaintiff thereafter filed an objection on August 22, 2008, stating that he had not filed a response due to various medical issues, and asking for an enlargement of time.

By Order filed August 28, 2008, the Honorable Henry M. Herlong, Jr., United States District Judge, granted Plaintiff an additional thirty (30) days from the date of that Order to respond to the Defendants' motion or request a further extension of time. The matter was then recommitted to the undersigned. Plaintiff filed a motion for appointment of counsel on September 11, 2008, which was denied by Order filed September 15, 2008, but despite the directive in Judge Herlong's Order, as well as the previous instructions and warnings provided by the Court, Plaintiff has failed to comply with this Court's orders or to file any response to the Defendants' motion, which has now been pending for over four (4) months.

Therefore, Plaintiff meets all of the criteria for dismissal under <u>Chandler Leasing</u> <u>Corp. V. Lopez</u>, 669 F.2d 929 (4th Cir. 1982). Accordingly, it is recommended that this action be dismissed with prejudice for lack of prosecution. <u>See Davis</u>, 558 F.2d at 70; Rule 41(b), Fed.R.Civ.P.; <u>Ballard v. Carlson</u>, 882 F.2d 93, 95 (4th Cir. 1989), <u>cert. denied sub nom</u>, <u>Ballard v. Volunteers of</u>

¹He is personally responsible for proceeding in a dilatory fashion, Defendants are suffering prejudice due to having to expend time and resources on a case in which the Plaintiff is unresponsive, and no sanctions other than dismissal appear to exist as the Plaintiff is indigent (and therefore not subject to monetary sanctions) and he has otherwise failed to respond to Court filings despite Court orders requiring him to do so. <u>Lopez</u>, 669 F.2d at 920.



America, 493 U.S. 1084 (1990) [Magistrate Judge's prior explicit warning that a recommendation of dismissal would result from plaintiff failing to obey his order was proper grounds for the district court to dismiss suit when plaintiff did not comply despite warning]

The parties are referred to the Notice Page attached heret

Bristow Marchant United States Magistrate Judge

Charleston, South Carolina

October <u>/6</u>, 2008

Notice of Right to File Objections to Report and Recommendation

The parties are advised that they may file specific written objections to this Report and Recommendation with the District Court Judge. Objections must specifically identify the portions of the Report and Recommendation to which objections are made and the basis for such objections. In the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must "only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation." *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310 (4th Cir. 2005).

Specific written objections must be filed within ten (10) days of the date of service of this Report and Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). The time calculation of this ten-day period excludes weekends and holidays and provides for an additional three (3) days for filing by mail. Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(a) & (e). Filing by mail pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 5 may be accomplished by mailing objections to:

Larry W. Propes, Clerk
United States District Court
Post Office Box 835
Charleston, South Carolina 29402

Failure to timely file specific written objections to this Report and Recommendation will result in waiver of the right to appeal from a judgment of the District Court based upon such Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); United States v. Schronce, 727 F.2d 91 (4th Cir. 1984); Wright v. Collins, 766 F.2d 841 (4th Cir. 1985).

