

1 HONORABLE RONALD B. LEIGHTON

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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
8 AT TACOMA

9 TIMOTHY ROBERTSON,

10 Plaintiff,

v.

11 KITSAP COUNTY, et al.,

12 Defendants.

CASE NO. C15-5422-RBL-DWC

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR  
RECONSIDERATION

DKT. #82

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14 THIS MATTER is before the Court on Defendants Arlen Johnson, ARNP and Sue  
15 Stevens, RN's Motion for Reconsideration [Dkt. #82]. Johnson and Stevens ask the Court to  
16 reconsider its Order [Dkt. #81] adopting Magistrate Judge Christel's Report and  
17 Recommendation [Dkt. #79], which dismissed all other Defendants in partially granting their  
18 motion for summary judgment. This case considers whether Johnson and Stevens were  
19 deliberately indifferent to Plaintiff Robertson's medical needs by failing to provide him with  
20 adequate care after he broke his tooth while detained at the Kitsap County Jail. At a broad level,  
21 Johnson and Stevens repeat the argument made in their Objection [Dkt. #80] to the R&R that  
22 Robertson failed to meet his initial burden of proof. They argue here that he has not shown an  
23 urgent need for dental care or that Johnson and Stevens were deliberately indifferent to that need.

1 Motions for reconsideration are disfavored. The Court will ordinarily deny such motions  
2 in the absence of a showing of manifest error in the prior ruling or a showing of new facts or  
3 legal authority that could not have been brought to its attention earlier with reasonable diligence.  
4 *See* Local Rule W.D. Wash. CR 7(h)(1). The term “manifest error” is “an error that is plain and  
5 indisputable, and that amounts to a complete disregard of the controlling law or the credible  
6 evidence in the record.” Black’s Law Dictionary 622 (9th ed. 2009).

7 To support his claim against Johnson and Stevens, Robertson must show he suffered a  
8 serious medical need, and they responded to his need with deliberate indifference. *See Farmer v.*  
9 *Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 834, 114 S. Ct. 1970, 1977, 128 L. Ed. 2d 811 (1994). Deliberate  
10 indifference can be shown when prison officials deny, delay, or intentionally interfere with  
11 treatment, or by the way they provide care. *See Hutchinson v. U.S.*, 838 F.2d 390, 394 (9th Cir.  
12 1988). Delay only constitutes an Eighth Amendment violation, however, if it causes the detainee  
13 substantial harm. *See Shapley v. Nevada Bd. of State Prison Comm’rs*, 766 F.2d 404, 407 (9th  
14 Cir. 1985).

15 Taking the evidence in the light most favorable to Robertson, as always, he provided  
16 evidence he broke his tooth in late June 2012 while housed at the Kitsap County Jail; yet,  
17 Johnson implemented a “no action” plan beyond prescribing Robertson salt water rinses and  
18 Ibuprofen, and Stevens did not refer him to a dentist until late August. Dr. Paul Hutchinson, DDS  
19 noted Robertson’s tooth was fractured, and he had developed irreversible pulpitis, requiring a  
20 root canal and crown. Robertson underwent a root canal in early September, but was extradited  
21 before receiving a permanent crown.

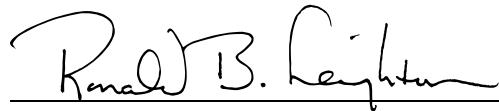
22 It is not a leap beyond credulity, or outside the bounds of *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*  
23 477 U.S. 242, 106 S. Ct. 2505 (1986), to reason Robertson’s need for an emergent root canal  
24

1 supports a conclusion that Johnson's and Steven's delay caused him substantial harm. Robertson  
2 has shown a genuine issue of material fact exists as to whether he had a serious medical need that  
3 Johnson and Stevens responded to with deliberate indifference. He therefore did not fail to meet  
4 his burden of proof.

5 Accordingly, Johnson and Stevens' Motion for Reconsideration [Dkt. #82] is DENIED.

6 IT IS SO ORDERED.

7 Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2017.

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10 Ronald B. Leighton  
11 United States District Judge  
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