

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LANCE WILLIAMS,

Plaintiff,

v.

ROMERO, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:17-cv-1884 TLN DB P

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO POST-
SCREENING ADR PROJECT AND
STAYING CASE FOR 120 DAYS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner, proceeding without counsel. Defendants have answered the complaint.

The undersigned is referring all post-screening civil rights cases filed by pro se state inmates to the Post-Screening ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Project in an effort to resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively. Defense counsel from the Office of the California Attorney General has agreed to participate in this pilot project. No defenses or objections shall be waived by their participation.

As set forth in the screening order, plaintiff has stated a potentially cognizable civil rights claim. Thus, the court stays this action for a period of 120 days to allow the parties to investigate plaintiff's claims, meet and confer, and then participate in a settlement conference.

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1 There is a presumption that all post-screening prisoner civil rights cases assigned to the
2 undersigned will proceed to settlement conference.¹ However, if after investigating plaintiff's
3 claims and speaking with plaintiff, and after conferring with defense counsel's supervisor,
4 defense counsel in good faith finds that a settlement conference would be a waste of resources,
5 defense counsel may move to opt out of this pilot project.

6 By filing the attached notice within thirty days, plaintiff shall indicate his preference to
7 appear in person or by videoconference, if available. Failure to timely file such notice will result
8 in the issuance of a writ for plaintiff's appearance in person. Once plaintiff has returned the
9 notice or the time for doing so has passed, the court will proceed to schedule the settlement
10 conference.

11 Once the settlement conference is scheduled, at least seven days prior to the conference,
12 the parties shall submit to the settlement judge a confidential settlement conference statement.
13 The parties' confidential settlement conference statements shall include the following: (a) names
14 and locations of the parties; (b) a short statement of the facts and alleged damages; (c) a short
15 procedural history; (d) an analysis of the risk of liability, including a discussion of the efforts
16 made to investigate the allegations; and (e) a discussion of the efforts that have been made to
17 settle the case. Defendant shall e-mail the settlement conference statement to the settlement
18 judge's e-mail box for proposed orders, available on the court's website. Plaintiff shall place his
19 settlement conference statement in the U.S. mail addressed to the settlement conference judge,
20 United States District Court, 501 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Plaintiff shall mail his
21 settlement conference statement so that it is received by the court at least seven days before the
22 settlement conference.

23 In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

24 1. This action is stayed for 120 days to allow the parties an opportunity to settle their
25 dispute before the discovery process begins. Except as provided herein or by subsequent court
26 order, no other pleadings or other documents may be filed in this case during the stay of this
27

28 ¹ If the case does not settle, the court will issue a discovery and scheduling order.

1 action. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery, but the parties may elect to engage in
2 informal discovery.

3 2. Within thirty days from the date of this order, plaintiff shall file the attached notice
4 informing the court how he wishes to appear at the settlement conference. If plaintiff does not
5 file the notice, the court will issue a writ for plaintiff to appear in person.

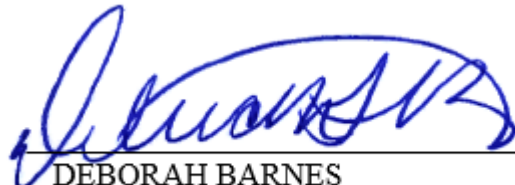
6 3. At least seven days prior to the settlement conference, each party shall submit a
7 confidential settlement conference statement, as described above, to the settlement judge.
8 Defendant shall e-mail the settlement conference statement to the settlement judge's proposed
9 orders e-mail address. Plaintiff shall place his settlement conference statement in the U.S. mail
10 addressed to the settlement judge, United States District Court, 501 I Street, Sacramento, CA
11 95814. Plaintiff shall mail his settlement conference statement so that it is received by the court
12 at least seven days before the settlement conference.

13 4. If a settlement is reached at any point during the stay of this action, the parties shall file
14 a Notice of Settlement in accordance with Local Rule 160.

15 5. The parties remain obligated to keep the court informed of their current addresses at all
16 times during the stay and while the action is pending. Any change of address must be reported
17 promptly to the court in a separate document captioned for this case and entitled "Notice of
18 Change of Address." See E.D. Cal. R. 182(f).

19 6. In a motion filed December 12, 2018, plaintiff requests a stay of this case for purposes
20 of participation in the Post-Screening ADR Project. Because the court is referring this case to the
21 ADR project by this order, plaintiff's motion (ECF No. 35) is denied as moot.

22 Dated: February 6, 2019

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25 DEBORAH BARNES
26 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

27 DLB:9
28 DB/prisoner-civil rights/will1884.adr.post.answer.db

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NOTICE RE: PLAINTIFF'S APPEARANCE
AT SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE (POST-
SCREENING ADR PROJECT)

As required by court order, the plaintiff notifies the court of the following election:

_____ Plaintiff would like to participate in the settlement conference in person.

OR

_____ Plaintiff would like to participate in the settlement conference by video conference.

DATED:

Plaintiff