

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Kendrid v. Yahiya

No. 2:23-cv-1145 TLN CSK P (E.D. Cal. Apr. 11, 2025) · No. 2:23-cv-1145 TLN CSK P · Decided April 14,
2025

OPINION

(PC) Kendrid v. Yahiya

PER CURIAM.

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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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11 FORREST KENDRID, No. 2:23-cv-1145 TLN CSK P

12 Plaintiff, 13 v. ORDER 14 YAHIIYA, et al., 15 Defendants. 16

17 I. INTRODUCTION

18 Plaintiff is a former civil detainee, proceeding without counsel, with this civil rights action 19
pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This order addresses plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel
20 (ECF No. 41) and resets the deadlines for plaintiff's deposition and pretrial motions.

21 II. BACKGROUND

22 On January 9, 2024, the Court issued a Discovery and Scheduling Order setting the 23
discovery deadline for May 17, 2024 and the pretrial motion deadline for August 23, 2024. (ECF
24 No. 25.) At the time the Discovery and Scheduling Order was filed, plaintiff was incarcerated.

25 On May 3, 2024, defendants filed a motion to extend the discovery and pretrial motion
deadlines 26 because they had been unable to depose plaintiff because plaintiff had been in a
mental health 27 crisis bed. (ECF No. 33.) On May 6, 2024, the Court granted defendants' motion
filed May 3, 28 2024 and extended the discovery deadline to July 16, 2024 and the pretrial motion
deadline to

1 October 22, 2024. (ECF No. 34.) On July 5, 2024, defendants filed a motion to extend the

2 discovery deadline to September 13, 2024 and the pretrial motion deadline to December 21,
2024. 3 (ECF No. 35.) In the July 5, 2025 motion, defendants stated that they were unable to
depose 4 plaintiff prior to plaintiff's release from the California Medical Facility on or around
June 10, 5 2024. (Id. at 2.) Defendants stated that, due to plaintiff's unstable housing situation
following his 6 release from the California Medical Facility, they were informed that plaintiff's
deposition could 7 possibly take place in August 2024. (Id. at 5.) Defendants stated that they were
at an impasse 8 and could not make significant progress with their defense until they took
plaintiff's deposition. 9 (Id. at 2.) 10 On July 17, 2024, this Court ordered plaintiff to show cause

within thirty days why this 11 action should not be dismissed for failure to prosecute based on plaintiff's failure to inform the 12 court of his address change following his release from prison. (ECF No. 36.) On July 29, 2024, 13 the July 17, 2024 order served on plaintiff was returned by the U.S. Postal Service. On

14 September 17, 2024, this Court vacated defendants' July 5, 2024 motion to extend the discovery

15 and pretrial motion deadlines and recommended that this action be dismissed based on plaintiff's 16 failure to prosecute. (ECF No. 39.) On September 24, 2024, plaintiff left a telephone message 17 with court staff. (ECF No. 40.) On September 26, 2024, this Court vacated the September 17, 18 2024 findings and recommendations and ordered plaintiff to file a status report within thirty days 19 addressing whether plaintiff was still hospitalized or had been moved to a board and care home. 20 (ECF No. 40.) This Court also ordered plaintiff to address whether defendants could depose him 21 at this time. (Id.) 22 On November 21, 2024, plaintiff filed a motion for appointment of counsel. (ECF No. 23 41.) In this motion, plaintiff stated that he was currently living in a skilled nursing facility for 24 long term medical treatment. (Id. at 1.) Plaintiff stated that he was wheelchair and bed bound. 25 (Id.) Plaintiff stated that he had no access to a law library or legal assistance. (Id.) Plaintiff also 26 stated that his borderline personality disorder prevented plaintiff from functioning in his daily 27 activities and litigating this action. (Id.) Plaintiff did not address whether he could now be 28 deposed.

1 III. MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

2 A. Plaintiff's Claims 3 This action proceeds on plaintiff's original complaint filed June 15, 2023 as to defendants 4 psychiatrist Yahiya and supervising psychologist Tucci. (ECF No. 1.) The alleged deprivations 5 occurred at the California Medical Facility. (Id.) Plaintiff alleges that on or about February 16, 6 2023, plaintiff was admitted to the mental health crisis unit based on suicidal and self-injurious 7 behavior. (Id. at 2.) Plaintiff was placed on suicide watch. (Id.) On February 17, 2023, plaintiff 8 cut himself with a razor. (Id. at 2-3.) Plaintiff was in a state of psychosis and believed that there 9 were bugs in his food. (Id. at 3.) A certified nursing assistant activated her alarm. (Id.) Custody 10 staff observed plaintiff with a razor and sprayed plaintiff through the food port, demanding the 11 razor. (Id.) Plaintiff refused the order. (Id.) A certified nursing assistant later informed plaintiff 12 that there were no bugs in plaintiff's food. (Id.) 13 On February 21, 2023, defendant Yahiya discontinued plaintiff's suicide watch. (Id. at 3.) 14 Defendant Yahiya told plaintiff that it was time for plaintiff to move on to California State 15 Prison-Lancaster and that plaintiff caused too many issues at the California Medical Facility. 16 (Id.) Defendant Yahiya told plaintiff that mental health treatment in the mental health crisis bed 17 was over and that defendant Yahiya and defendant Tucci were in agreement to end all treatment 18 for plaintiff. (Id.) Soon after receiving this information from defendant Yahiya, plaintiff cut 19 himself again, cutting open his abdomen. (Id.) Plaintiff was seen by defendant Tucci. (Id.) 20 Defendant Tucci told plaintiff that she wanted plaintiff transferred to California State Prison- 21 Lancaster because

plaintiff had litigation pending in court against her and mental health staff and 22 defendant Tucci could not allow that to continue. (Id. at 4.) Defendant Tucci told plaintiff that 23 defendant Tucci instructed her staff not to respond to plaintiff's self-injurious behavior, she 24 "cared less" about plaintiff having a razor, and that she was tired of plaintiff's "shit." (Id.) 25 Defendant Tucci also told plaintiff that defendant Yahiya had discontinued plaintiff's treatment 26 for his self-injurious behavior and that suicide watch would not be reinstated. (Id.) Defendant 27 Tucci told plaintiff, "Don't make my job difficult. We can charge you for possession of a weapon 28 and threatening to use it against my staff...you made your bed now sleep in it. If you harm 1 yourself again there will be consequences. You won't be able to plea[d] not guilty by reason of 2 insanity again. I can write a report to the court and I believe you should of never been found 3 insane." (Id.) Plaintiff alleges that defendants knew of plaintiff's self-injurious behavior before 4 they discontinued suicide watch. (Id.) Plaintiff alleges that defendants knew of plaintiff's mental 5 history and delusional thoughts. (Id.) Plaintiff alleges that defendant Yahiya told plaintiff that 6 they would have staff check on plaintiff now and then. (Id. at 5.) Defendant Yahiya told plaintiff 7 that if plaintiff died "between then," plaintiff would not be defendants' problem anymore. (Id.) 8 Defendants then walked away from plaintiff. (Id.) Plaintiff alleges that defendants observed 9 blood on the floor and windows but also observed plaintiff bleeding with a razor. (Id.) Plaintiff 10 gave the razor to custody. (Id.) Plaintiff alleges that defendants' actions triggered plaintiff's 11 psychosis. (Id.) Plaintiff continued to engage in self-injurious behavior and refused to eat until 12 he was sent to California State Prison-Lancaster on or around February 23, 2023. (Id.) Plaintiff 13 also alleges that defendants did not enforce plaintiff's emergency psychotropic medication. (Id.) 14 Plaintiff also alleges that defendants failed to request that custody take the razor away from 15 plaintiff. (Id.) Plaintiff alleges that defendants discontinued his mental health treatment in 16 retaliation for plaintiff's lawsuits and in violation of plaintiff's right to adequate mental health 17 treatment. (Id. at 6.) 18 B. Discussion 19 It is "well-established that there is generally no constitutional right to counsel in civil 20 cases." *United States v. Sardone*, 94 F.3d 1233, 1236 (9th Cir. 1996). Under "exceptional 21 circumstances," a court may appoint counsel for indigent civil litigants pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 22 § 1915(e)(1). When determining whether "exceptional circumstances" exist, a court considers 23 both "the likelihood of success on the merits as well as the ability of the petitioner to articulate 24 [the] claims pro se in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved." *Palmer v. Valdez*, 560 25 F.3d 965, 970 (9th Cir. 2009). 26 In the pending motion for appointment of counsel, plaintiff claims that he will have 27 difficulty prosecuting this action because of his medical and mental health problems. Plaintiff 28 also claims that he does not have access to a law library or legal assistance at the skilled nursing 1 | facility where he now lives. This Court also acknowledges that plaintiff's complaint raises 2 | troubling claims against defendants. However, at this time, this Court cannot determine 3 || plaintiff's likelihood of success on the merits of his claims. This Court also observes that plaintiff 4 || was able to file this action despite plaintiff's medical and mental health problems, which appear 5 || to have existed at the

time plaintiff filed the complaint, and was able to file various documents 6 || throughout this litigation. In addition, the legal issues raised in plaintiff's complaint are not 7 || particularly complex. For these reasons, and because the Court has extremely limited resources 8 | to appoint attorneys in civil cases, plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel is denied without 9 || prejudice.

10 | IV. SCHEDULING OF THIS ACTION

11 As discussed above, the discovery and pretrial motion deadlines for this action were 12 || vacated due to defendants' inability to depose plaintiff. In the motion for appointment of counsel, 13 || plaintiff failed to address whether he may be deposed at the board and care facility where he now 14 | lives. Because plaintiff's housing situation appears stable, it appears that defendants may depose 15 | plaintiff. For this reason, this Court sets a deadline for defendants to depose plaintiff and for the 16 | filing of pretrial motions. 17 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that: 18 1. Plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel (ECF No. 41) is denied; 19 2. Defendants shall complete plaintiff's deposition by June 17, 2025; and 20 3. The pretrial motion deadline is September 17, 2025. 21 22 || Dated: April 11, 2025 A aA Aan Spe |

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24 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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