

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Willie Ray Lewis v. S. Austin, et al.

Lewis · No. 3:24-cv-00538-ART-CLB · Decided December 22, 2025

SUMMARY

This order from the United States District Court for the District of Nevada requires the parties in Willie Ray Lewis v. S. Austin, et al. to exchange initial disclosures and attend a mandatory case management conference. The conference is scheduled for January 14, 2026, and the parties must file case management conference statements at least one week beforehand. The court will issue a scheduling order and discovery plan after the conference.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
DECIDED	December 22, 2025
DOCKET	3:24-cv-00538-ART-CLB
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	After screening Plaintiff's prisoner civil-rights complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a) and permitting the action to proceed, the district court issued an order requiring initial disclosures, setting a mandatory case management conference, and temporarily limiting further discovery pending a scheduling order.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Willie Ray Lewis v. S. Austin, et al.

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- prisoners rights
- section 1983

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- prisoner civil rights
- discovery

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the court should require the parties to exchange initial disclosures notwithstanding the ordinary prisoner-litigation exception in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1)(B).
- What case-management procedures should govern the action before entry of a full scheduling order.

HOLDINGS

1. The court may require the parties to exchange initial disclosures under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16 notwithstanding Rule 26(a)(1)(B), and the parties were ordered to provide the specified information and materials.
2. Except for the initial disclosures ordered by the court, no further discovery may proceed until the court issues a full scheduling order following the mandatory case management conference.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“[c]ontrol is defined as the legal right to obtain documents upon demand.” (at 2)

“[T]he court can order exchange of similar information in managing the action under Rule 16.” (at 1)

“The enumeration in Rule 26(a) of items to be disclosed does not prevent a court from requiring by order or local rule that the parties disclose additional information without a discovery request.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The action is a prisoner civil-rights case brought by Willie Ray Lewis against S. Austin and other defendants. The court determined that initial disclosures would assist in managing the litigation, particularly information concerning individuals with discoverable information, supporting documents, and materials relevant to any exhaustion defense. The court also scheduled a mandatory case management conference to address discovery, exhaustion, expert witnesses, and potential requests for injunctive relief concerning Lewis's incarceration.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court screened Lewis's complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a) and ordered the case to proceed. It then entered this case-management order requiring the parties to exchange specified initial disclosures, file conference statements, attend a mandatory case management conference, and await a subsequent scheduling order before conducting additional discovery.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- United States v. International Union of Petroleum & Industrial Workers, AFL-CIO, 870 F.2d 1450, 1452 (9th Cir. 1989)

OPINION

Lewis

PER CURIAM.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

3 WILLIE RAY LEWIS, Case No. 3:24-cv-00538-ART-CLB 4 Plaintiff, ORDER SETTING
MANDATORY 5

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

v. AND EXCHANGE OF INITIAL

DISCLOSURES

S. AUSTIN, et al., 7 Defendants. 8 9 The Court has now screened Plaintiff's complaint pursuant to
28 U.S.C. § 10 1915A(a) and ordered the case to proceed. In order to ensure the just, speedy, and
11 cost-effective resolution of this action, the court orders: (1) the parties to exchange initial 12
disclosures, as described below; and (2) the parties attend a mandatory case 13 management
conference to be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., 14 as describe more fully
below. 15 Following the mandatory conference, the court will issue a full scheduling order, 16
setting out additional dates related to discovery and the litigation. Aside from the initial 17
disclosures required by this order, no other discovery may proceed until the court enters 18 a full
scheduling order following the mandatory scheduling conference. 19

I. INITIAL DISCLOSURES

20 Notwithstanding Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1)(B), the court finds that 21 initial
disclosures would be helpful in managing this action under Federal Rule of Civil 22 Procedure 16,
taking into account the extent of prisoner litigation in this district, the desire 23 1 to manage those
cases efficiently, the desire to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive 2 determination of this case,
the importance of the issues at stake, the parties' relative 3 access to relevant information, the
parties' resources, the importance of discovery in 4 resolving issues, and the value of initial
disclosure of information obtained through the 5 administrative grievance process.¹ Accordingly,
all parties are hereby ordered to provide 6 initial disclosures with the following information:² 7 A.
The name and, if known, the address and telephone number of each 8 individual likely to have
discoverable information—along with the subjects of that 9 information—that the disclosing party
may use to support its claims or defenses, unless 10 the use would be solely for impeachment. 11

1. The Parties may withhold confidential sensitive information

12 regarding the identity or contact information of such individuals so long as they provide 13 a
method of identifying and contacting such individuals, such as through counsel. 14 B. A copy—or
a description by category and location—of all documents, 15 electronically stored information,
and tangible things that the disclosing party has in its 16 possession, custody, or control and may
use to support its claims or defenses, unless 17 18

1 Rule 26, Advisory Committee Note, 2000 Amendments ("[T]he court can

19 order exchange of similar information in managing the action under Rule 16."). Also note Rule
26, Advisory Committee Note, 1993 Amendment "The enumeration in Rule 20 26(a) of items to

be disclosed does not prevent a court from requiring by order or local rule that the parties disclose additional information without a discovery request." 21 2 These disclosures must be mailed to the other parties in the case, or their 22 attorneys, if they are represented by counsel. These disclosures should not be filed with the court. 23 1 the use would be solely for impeachment. 2

1. In the context of Rule 26, "[c]ontrol is defined as the legal right to

3 obtain documents upon demand." United States v. Int'l Union of Petroleum & Indus. 4 Workers, AFL-CIO, 870 F.2d 1450, 1452 (9th Cir. 1989). 5

2. To the extent Defendant(s) intend to rely on an affirmative defense

6 based on a failure to exhaust administrative remedies, Defendant(s) shall provide to 7 Plaintiff all documents Defendants intend to use to support that defense. 8

II. MANDATORY CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

9 A mandatory case management conference will be held on January 14, 2026, at 10 1:00 p.m. Lead Defense Counsel shall dial 1-855-244-8681, access code 2319 945 11 8106 to be properly connected into the courtroom for this hearing. The Attorney 12 General's Office shall make the necessary arrangements for the telephonic appearance 13 of the Plaintiff and shall provide the Courtroom Deputy at lisa_mann@nvd.uscourts.gov 14 with the telephone number at which the Plaintiff can be reached for this hearing. The 15 parties should be available for one hour, although the case management conference 16 will likely take less time. The parties shall be prepared to informally discuss the following 17 issues: 18 A. A brief statement of the parties' claims and/or defenses; 19 B. Confirmation that initial disclosures (described above) have been provided, 20 and any justification for withholding any portion of that information; 21 C. The location of potentially relevant documents; 22 23 1 D. Any deficiency or problems in the other party's initial disclosures; 2 E. Discovery each party intends to take, if any, in addition to the discovery 3 ordered above; 4 F. A timeline for the scheduling of discovery; 5 6 G. Any options or methods for the streamlining discovery; 7 H. Whether any party intends to challenge the issue of exhaustion; 8 I. Whether any party intends to use expert witnesses; and, 9 10 J. Any immediate or ongoing issues or requests for injunctive relief regarding 11 current incarceration that could require the court's immediate attention. 12

III. CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE STATEMENTS

13 At least one-week in advance of the case management conference, each party 14 shall file a case management conference statement. The case management conference 15 statement must address the issues listed above, as well as any other issues that the 16 parties believe would assist in the scheduling of the case. The statement should include 17 the date that initial disclosures were served and any deficiencies in either party's 18 disclosures. The statement must not exceed five (5) pages in length and no exhibits or 19 attachments should be included. 20

IV. SCHEDULING ORDER

21 Following the case management conference, the court will issue a Scheduling 22 Order and Discovery Plan with the benefit of the input of the parties. Once issued, the 23 | dates in the

Scheduling Order and Discovery Plan shall be firm and no extension shall 2 be given without permission from the court based on good cause shown. 3 DATED: December 22, 2025

NITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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