

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

MICHAEL ROWE,

Plaintiff,

v.

NURSE TRISH, KAREN ANDERSON,
SGT. HAGG, LT. KARNA and
DAVID SPANNAGEL,

Defendants.

ORDER

14-cv-195-bbc

Dispositive motions are due in this case on October 2, 2015 and plaintiff Michael Cortez Rowe has filed a motion for summary judgment. However, I am denying the motion because plaintiff failed to follow the procedures as outlined in the Procedure To Be Followed on Motions for Summary Judgment. This procedure was included with the January 22, 2015 pretrial conference order in this case and I will include a copy of this procedure along with this order. As explained in that summary judgment procedure, to file a motion for summary judgment, these documents must be submitted to the court:

- (1) A written brief that explains the law and the facts that support a court decision your favor;
- (2) A document that you should call “Proposed Findings of Fact” that lists

all of the facts about this case that you talk about in your brief and that you believe are not actually disputed by your opponent. You must list each fact in a separately-numbered paragraph. In each paragraph, you should identify the evidence that supports the fact (for instance the specific documents or the specific paragraph in your sworn written statement, called an affidavit, or something else); and

- (3) Copies of the actual evidence that you refer to in your “Proposed Findings of Fact,” so that the court can decide if there is actual support for the facts that you claim are true.

Plaintiff should pay particular attention to those parts of the procedure that require him to submit proposed findings of fact in support of his motion and point to admissible evidence in the record to support each factual proposition.

Also before the court is defendants’ motion to extend the deadline for filing dispositive motions by 30 days. Dkt. #29. Counsel says that the case was reassigned to her last month, no other lawyers are working on the case and she needs more time to prepare. Dkt. #30.

It is unfortunate that the Wisconsin Department of Justice is not providing new lawyers the assistance they believe they need to comply with established court deadlines. In this case, I will grant the extension because there is room in the schedule for it, but counsel should not expect to receive significant extensions of time whenever a case is reassigned. Substitution of lawyers is a common occurrence in litigation and one that should be

anticipated by the department so that it can take steps to prevent unnecessary delays.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that plaintiff Michael Corez Rowe's motion for summary judgment, dkt. #27, is DENIED without prejudice and the motion for an extension of time filed by defendants Nurse Trish, Karen Anderson, Sgt. Hagg, Lt. Karna and David Spannagel, dkt. #29, is GRANTED. The parties may have until November 2, 2015, to submit a summary judgment motion that complies with this court's procedures. No further extensions will be granted in the absence of extraordinary circumstances.

Entered this 23d day of September, 2015.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

BARBARA B. CRABB
District Judge

HELPFUL TIPS FOR FILING A SUMMARY JUDGMENT MOTION

Please read the attached directions carefully – doing so will save your time and the court's.

REMEMBER:

1. All facts necessary to sustain a party's position on a motion for summary judgment must be explicitly proposed as findings of fact. This includes facts establishing jurisdiction. (Think of your proposed findings of fact as telling a story to someone who knows nothing of the controversy.)

2. The court will not search the record for factual evidence. Even if there is evidence in the record to support your position on summary judgment, if you do not propose a finding of fact with the proper citation, the court will not consider that evidence when deciding the motion.

3. A fact properly proposed by one side will be accepted by the court as undisputed unless the other side properly responds to the proposed fact and establishes that it is in dispute.

4. Your brief is the place to make your legal argument, not to restate the facts. When you finish it, check it over with a fine tooth comb to be sure you haven't relied upon or assumed any facts in making your legal argument that you failed to include in the separate document setting out your proposed findings of fact.

5. A chart listing the documents to be filed by the deadlines set by the court for briefing motions for summary judgment or cross-motions for summary judgment is printed on the last page of the procedures.

MEMORANDUM TO PRO SE LITIGANTS REGARDING SUMMARY JUDGMENT MOTIONS

This court expects all litigants, including persons representing themselves, to follow this court's Procedures to be Followed on Motions for Summary Judgment. If a party does not follow the procedures, there will be no second chance to do so. Therefore, PAY ATTENTION to the following list of mistakes pro se plaintiffs tend to make when they oppose a defendant's motion for summary judgment:

- Problem: The plaintiff does not answer the defendant's proposed facts correctly.

Solution: To answer correctly, a plaintiff must file a document titled "Response to Defendant's Proposed Findings of Fact." In this document, the plaintiff must answer each numbered fact that the defendant proposes, using separate paragraphs that have the same numbers as defendant's paragraphs. See Procedure II.D. If plaintiff does not object to a fact that the defendant proposes, he should answer, "No dispute."

- Problem: The plaintiff submits his own set of proposed facts without answering the defendant's facts.

Solution: Procedure II.B. allows a plaintiff to file his own set of proposed facts in response to a defendant's motion ONLY if he thinks he needs additional facts to prove his claim.

- Problem: The plaintiff does not tell the court and the defendant where there is evidence in the record to support his version of a fact.

Solution: Plaintiff must pay attention to Procedure II.D.2., which tells him how to dispute a fact proposed by the defendant. Also, he should pay attention to Procedure I.B.2., which explains how a new proposed fact should be written.

- Problem: The plaintiff supports a fact with an exhibit that the court cannot accept as evidence because it is not authenticated.

Solution: Procedure I.C. explains what may be submitted as evidence. A copy

of a document will not be accepted as evidence unless it is authenticated. That means that the plaintiff or someone else who has personal knowledge what the document is must declare under penalty of perjury in a separate affidavit that the document is a true and correct copy of what it appears to be. For example, if plaintiff wants to support a proposed fact with evidence that he received a conduct report, he must submit a copy of the conduct report, together with an affidavit in which he declares under penalty of perjury that the copy is a true and unaltered copy of the conduct report he received on such and such a date.

NOTE WELL: If a party fails to respond to a fact proposed by the opposing party, the court will accept the opposing party's proposed fact as undisputed. If a party's response to any proposed fact does not comply with the court's procedures or cites evidence that is not admissible, the court will take the opposing party's factual statement as true and undisputed. You'll find additional tips for making sure that your submissions comply with the court's procedures on page 8 of this packet.

Revised March 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED ON MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

I. MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

A. Contents:

1. A motion, together with such materials permitted by Rule 56(e) as the moving party may wish to serve and file; and
2. In a separate document, a statement of proposed findings of fact or a stipulation of fact between or among the parties to the action, or both; and
3. Evidentiary materials (see I.C.); and
4. A supporting brief.

B. Rules Regarding Proposed Findings of Fact:

1. Each fact must be proposed in a separate, numbered paragraph, limited as nearly as possible to a single factual proposition.
2. Each factual proposition must be followed by a reference to evidence supporting the proposed fact. The citation must make it clear where in the record the evidence is located. If a party is citing an affidavit of a witness who has submitted multiple affidavits or the deposition of a witness who has been deposed multiple times, that party should include the date the cited document was filed with the court. For example,

1. Plaintiff Smith bought six Holstein calves on
July 11, 2006. Harold Smith Affidavit, filed Jan.
6, 2007, p.1, ¶ 3.

3. The statement of proposed findings of fact shall include ALL factual propositions the moving party considers necessary for judgment in the party's favor. For example, the proposed findings shall include factual statements

relating to jurisdiction, the identity of the parties, the dispute, and the context of the dispute.

4. The court will not consider facts contained only in a brief.

C. Evidence

1. As noted in I.B. above, each proposed finding must be supported by admissible evidence. The court will not search the record for evidence. To support a proposed fact, you may use:
 - a. Depositions. Give the name of the witness, the date of the deposition, and page of the transcript of cited deposition testimony;
 - b. Answers to Interrogatories. State the number of the interrogatory and the party answering it;
 - c. Admissions made pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 36. (state the number of the requested admission and the identity of the parties to whom it was directed); or
 - d. Other Admissions. The identity of the document, the number of the page, and paragraph of the document in which that admission is made.
 - e. Affidavits. The page and paragraph number, the name of the affiant, and the date of the affidavit. (Affidavits must be made by persons who have first hand knowledge and must show that the person making the affidavit is in a position to testify about those facts.)
 - f. Documentary evidence that is shown to be true and correct, either by an affidavit or by stipulation of the parties. (State exhibit number, page and paragraph.)

II. RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

A. Contents:

1. A response to the moving party's proposed finding of fact; and
2. A brief in opposition to the motion for summary judgment; and
3. Evidentiary materials (See I.C.)

- B. In addition to responding to the moving party's proposed facts, a responding party may propose its own findings of fact following the procedure in section I.B. and C. above.
1. A responding party should file additional proposed findings of fact if it needs them to defeat the motion for summary judgment.
 2. The purpose of additional proposed findings of fact is to SUPPLEMENT the moving party's proposed findings of fact, not to dispute any facts proposed by the moving party. They do not take the place of responses. Even if the responding party files additional proposed findings of fact, it MUST file a separate response to the moving party's proposed findings of fact.
- C. Unless the responding party puts into dispute a fact proposed by the moving party, the court will conclude that the fact is undisputed.
- D. Rules Regarding Responses to the Moving Party's Proposed Factual Statements:
1. Answer each numbered fact proposed by the moving party in separate paragraphs, using the same number.
 2. If you dispute a proposed fact, state your version of the fact and refer to evidence that supports that version. For example,

Moving party proposes as a fact:

"1. Plaintiff Smith purchased six Holstein calves from Dell's Dairy Farm on July 11, 2006. Harold Smith Affidavit, Jan. 6, 2007, p.1, ¶ 3."

Responding party responds:

"1. Dispute. The purchase Smith made from Dell's Dairy Farm on July 11, 2006 was for one Black Angus bull John Dell Affidavit, Feb. 1, 2007, Exh. A."

3. The court prefers but does not require that the responding party repeat verbatim the moving party's proposed fact and then respond to it. Using this format for the example above would lead to this response by the responding party:

"1. Plaintiff Smith purchased six Holstein calves from Dell's Dairy Farm on July 11, 2006. Harold Smith Affidavit, Jan. 6, 2007, p.1, ¶ 3.

"Dispute. The purchase Smith made from Dell's Dairy Farm on July 11, 2006 was for one Black Angus bull." John Dell Affidavit, Feb. 1, 2007, Exh. A."

4. When a responding party disputes a proposed finding of fact, the response must be limited to those facts necessary to raise a dispute. The court will disregard any

new facts that are not directly responsive to the proposed fact. If a responding party believes that more facts are necessary to tell its story, it should include them in its own proposed facts, as discussed in II.B.

E. Evidence

1. Each fact proposed in disputing a moving party's proposed factual statement and all additional facts proposed by the responding party must be supported by admissible evidence. The court will not search the record for evidence. To support a proposed fact, you may use evidence as described in Procedure I.C.1. a. through f.
2. The court will not consider any factual propositions made in response to the moving party's proposed facts that are not supported properly and sufficiently by admissible evidence.

III. REPLY BY MOVING PARTY

A. Contents:

1. An answer to each numbered factual statement made by the responding party in response to the moving party's proposed findings of fact, together with references to evidentiary materials; and
 2. An answer to each additional numbered factual statement proposed by the responding party under Procedure II.B., if any, together with references to evidentiary materials; and
 3. A reply brief; and
 4. Evidentiary materials (see I.C.)
- B. If the responding party has filed additional proposed findings of fact, the moving party should file its response to those proposed facts at the same time as its reply, following the procedure in section II.
- C. When the moving party answers the responding party's responses to the moving party's original proposed findings of fact, and answers the responding party's additional proposed findings of fact, the court prefers but does not require that the moving party repeat verbatim the entire sequence associated with each proposed finding of fact so that reply is a self-contained history of all proposed facts, responses and replies by all parties.

IV. SUR-REPLY BY RESPONDING PARTY

A responding party shall not file a sur-reply without first obtaining permission from the court. The court only permits sur-replies in rare, unusual situations.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Deadline 1 (All deadlines appear in the Preliminary Pretrial Conference Order Sent to the Parties Earlier)	Deadline 2	Deadline 3
moving party's motion		
moving party's brief	non-moving party's response brief	moving party's reply brief
moving party's proposed findings of fact	non-moving party's response to moving party's proposed findings of fact	moving party's reply to non-moving party's response to moving party's proposed findings of fact
	non-moving party's additional proposed findings of fact	moving party's response to non-moving party's additional proposed findings of fact, if any.

CROSS MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Deadline 1 (All deadlines appear in the Preliminary Pretrial Conference Order Sent to the Parties Earlier)	Deadline 2	Deadline 3
defendant's motion		
defendant's brief	plaintiff's response brief	defendant's reply brief
defendant's proposed findings of fact	plaintiff's response to defendant's proposed findings of fact	defendant's reply to plaintiff's response to defendant's proposed findings of fact
plaintiff's motion		
plaintiff's brief	defendant's response brief	plaintiff's reply brief
plaintiff's proposed findings of fact	defendant's response to plaintiff's proposed findings of fact	plaintiff's reply to defendant's response to plaintiff's proposed findings of fact