

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

MELINDA SCHUMACHER,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE SWISS COLONY, INC.,
and JOE HUNTER,

Defendants.

ORDER

06-C-0047-C

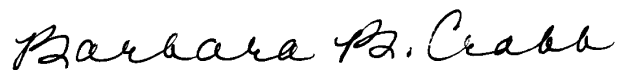
Plaintiff Melinda Schumacher's counsel has moved for leave to withdraw as her counsel and to obtain an extension of all deadlines to give plaintiff enough time to find replacement counsel. Defendants object to the request to extend the deadlines, pointing out that the magistrate judge reminded the parties earlier last month that no further extensions would be granted. They contend that they will be prejudiced if plaintiff's request for an extension is granted. As defendants note, withdrawal of counsel on the eve of a critical deadline looks suspiciously like a ploy to avoid a deadline for which the party is unprepared. In this instance, however, I believe that fairness requires granting the motion, giving plaintiff a short amount of time in which to find new counsel and granting an extension of the

summary judgment deadlines. Unless plaintiff advises me in writing no later than November 15, 2006 that she objects to the motion for leave to withdraw, I will grant the motion. If plaintiff objects, I will schedule a telephonic hearing with her and her counsel. If she does not object, I will give her until November 20, 2006, in which to advise the court that she has engaged new counsel to represent her in this proceeding. If by November 20, 2006, she has been unable to find new counsel, she will have to proceed on her own without representation by counsel.

In the interim, all deadlines are stayed until November 20, 2006, when I will set new deadlines for the filing of plaintiff's response to defendants' motion for summary judgment and for the filing of defendants' reply brief.

Entered this 1st day of November, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara B. Crabb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BARBARA B. CRABB
District Judge