

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

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STEVEN MICKELSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

ORDER

SARAH STAFF, NICOLE BROWN,  
and HOLLY GUNDERSON,

23-cv-695-jdp

Defendants.<sup>1</sup>

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Plaintiff Steven Mickelson, proceeding without counsel, is incarcerated at New Lisbon Correctional Institution. Mickelson alleges that prison staff is failing to properly treat the pain that he suffers in his back, legs, and stomach, and a stomach malady that causes him to vomit. Defendant Sarah Staff has submitted a stipulation of dismissal regarding Mickelson's claims against her. Dkt. 37. I will dismiss Staff from the case. Defendants Nicole Brown and Holly Gunderson remain in the case.

Mickelson moves for the court's assistance in recruiting him counsel, stating that he has thus far received assistance from other inmates, and that he suffers from a host of medical problems, including glaucoma that leaves him unable to read legal documents. Dkt. 29.

I'm persuaded that Mickelson's ability to litigate this case is far below those of the typical prisoner. I will grant Mickelson's motion and the case will be stayed pending recruitment of counsel.

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<sup>1</sup> I have amended the caption to reflect the correct spelling of defendant Staff's name as provided in her submissions.

If I find counsel willing to represent Mickelson, I will advise the parties of that fact. Soon thereafter, a status conference will be held to set a new schedule. Mickelson is advised that the search for counsel may take several months, and there is no guarantee that the court will find counsel willing to represent him.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Defendant Sarah Staff is DISMISSED.
2. Plaintiff's motion for recruitment of counsel, Dkt. 29, is GRANTED.
3. The case is STAYED pending recruitment of counsel for plaintiff.

Entered October 27, 2025.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

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JAMES D. PETERSON  
District Judge