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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN DIVISION

Ciera Stoetling, individually  
and for Baby ; Felipe Sedona,  
individually;

Plaintiffs,  
vs.

County of Orange, a  
Governmental Entity; and DOES  
1-50.

Defendants.

CASE NO:

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

***JURY TRIAL DEMANDED***

1. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over  
the action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 as

1 Plaintiff alleges, among other things, violations of  
2 the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 42  
3 U.S.C. § 1983, and the Bane Act.  
4

5 2. Venue is proper as all facts and circumstances  
6 which form the basis of the allegations made therein  
7 occurred within the County of Orange in the State of  
8 California.  
9

10 3. Defendant County of Orange (hereinafter also  
11 referred to as "County of Orange" or "County") is a  
12 political subdivision of the State of California and is  
13 a municipal entity, located within the territorial  
14 jurisdiction of this Honorable Court.  
15

16 4. Defendants DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are  
17 sworn peace officers and/or deputy sheriffs and/or  
18 supervisors and/or investigators and/Special Officers  
19 and/or dispatchers and/or some other public officer,  
20 public official or employee of defendant County of  
21 Orange, who in some way committed some or all of the  
22 tortious actions (and constitutional violations)  
23 complained of in this action, and/or otherwise  
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1 responsible for and liable to plaintiffs for the acts  
2 complained of in this action, whose identities are, and  
3 remain unknown to plaintiffs, who will amend their  
4 complaint to add and to show the actual names of said  
5 DOE defendants when ascertained by Plaintiffs.  
6

7  
8 5. At all times complained of herein, DOES 1 through 50,  
9 inclusive, were acting as individual person acting under the  
10 color of the state law, pursuant to their authority as sworn  
11 peace officers and/or deputy sheriffs and/or Special Officers  
12 and/or Supervisors (i.e. Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains,  
13 Commanders, etc.) and/or dispatchers, employed by defendant  
14 County of Orange, and were acting in the course of and within the  
15 scope of their employment with Defendant County of Orange.  
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19 6. Plaintiffs are presently unaware of the identities of  
20 DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, and will amend their complaint to  
21 add and to show the actual names of said DOE defendants, when  
22 ascertained by Plaintiffs.  
23

24  
25 7. In addition to the above and foregoing, defendants DOES 1  
26 through 50, inclusive, acted pursuant to a conspiracy, agreement  
27 and understanding and common plan and scheme to deprive the  
28

Plaintiffs of their Federal Constitutional and statutory

COMPLAINT

1 rights, as complained of in this action, and acted in joint and  
2 concerted action to so deprive Plaintiffs of those rights as  
3 complained of herein; all in violation of 42 U.S. C. §1983, and  
4 otherwise in violation of United States (Constitutional and  
5 statutory) law.  
6

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8 8. Said conspiracy / agreement / understanding / plan / scheme /  
9 joint action / concerted action, above-referenced, was a proximate  
10 cause of the violation of Plaintiffs' Federal and State  
11 constitutional and statutory rights, as complained of herein.  
12

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14 **FIRST CLAIM**

15 **CIERA STOETLING INDIVIDUALLY AND FOR BABY , FELIPE**  
16  
17 **SEDONA AGAINST COUNTY OF ORANGE AND DOES 1 to 50**

18 9. Plaintiffs re-pleads and incorporates by  
19 reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the  
20 allegations contained above of this complaint.  
21

22 10. On May 12, 2018, Plaintiff Ciera Stoetling  
23 ("Ms. Stoelting") was a prisoner in the Orange County  
24 when she gave birth to a Baby who died while both were  
25 in custody. Plaintiff Felipe Sedona was the biological  
26 father of the deceased Baby.  
27  
28

COMPLAINT

1        11. Ms. Stoetling had informed Defendants she was  
2 pregnant and had been on "pregnant" status in the jail.  
3 She had been in the jail since April 29, 2018.  
4

5        12. Early on May 12, 2018 Ms. Stoelting advised the  
6 jail nurse she was having contractions which continued  
7 up to the birth of her Baby. At one point the  
8 emergency button in her cell was pressed and jail staff  
9 was informed of her contractions. The guard on duty  
10 ignored this information and, more importantly, did not  
11 summon any aid. The emergency button was then pressed  
12 again for the second time due to Ms. Stoelting being in  
13 more pain. After a gross delay in excess of 3 hours  
14 with deliberate indifference for both Ms. Stoelting and  
15 her Baby, County employees eventually decided to  
16 transfer Stoelting to the infirmary pod instead of  
17 providing the adequate medical treatment required by a  
18 person in Stoelting's condition. In fact, she was told  
19 to drink eight cups of water a day and that she would  
20 be seen by a doctor on Monday. This was Mother's Day  
21 2018.  
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1           13. Ms. Stoelting is informed and believes, and  
2           thereon alleges, that the County, among other reasons,  
3           failed to provide adequate medical care for Ms.  
4           Stoelting because the Jail was woefully understaffed  
5           and did not have appropriate or necessary medical care  
6           available. The only appropriate solution was to  
7           transport Ms. Stoelting and her Baby to the hospital  
8           which County employees deliberately and intentional  
9           refused to do. At the very least, Ms.  
10          Stoelting should have been provided with the  
11          appropriate medical professional given her pregnancy.  
12          Instead, Ms. Stoelting was thrown in an infirmary cell  
13          with personnel not qualified to handle Ms. Stoelting's  
14          medical needs.

15           14. Later on May 12, 2018, Ms. Stoetling gave  
16          birth to a Baby while sitting on the toilet of her  
17          cell. Ms. Stoelting stood up and had to repeatedly  
18          bang on the window of her door so County personnel  
19          would assist her with the Baby hanging from her body.

20           15. Her Baby was born alive and did not perish as a  
21

1 result of a miscarriage as her Baby died after leaving  
2 Stoelting's body. To make matters worse, Defendant  
3 County employees failed to puncture the amniotic sac  
4 after her Baby was born. All of these acts and  
5 failures to act by Defendant and their agents and  
6 employees were done with deliberate indifference to the  
7 harm of Ms. Stoetling and her Baby causing them damages  
8 including pain, suffering, emotional distress, loss of  
9 companionship and death in violation of Federal and  
10 State Law including negligence, Fourteenth Amendment,  
11 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and the Bane Act.  
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16 16. As the legal and proximate cause of the  
17 aforementioned actions, inaction and violations of both  
18 Federal and State Law, Ms. Stoelting and Mr. Sedona  
19 suffered, and continues to suffer, from substantial  
20 harm including, but not limited to, wrongful death  
21 damages pursuant to California law.  
22  
23

24 17. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and  
25 thereon allege, that all of the aforementioned actions  
26 and inactions are the custom, policy and procedure of  
27  
28

1 Defendant County in relationship to pregnant inmates at  
2 the Jail.

3 18. Ms. Stoetling and Mr. Sedona filed their claims for  
4 damages against the County of Orange, pursuant to the California  
5 Tort Claims Act, Cal. Gov't. Code § 900 et seq., within the  
6 statutory timeframe.  
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9 19. Ms. Stoelting and Mr. Sedona are not in custody and her  
10 Baby is dead. As such, they are not subject to PLRA.  
11

12 **PRAYER**

13 **WHEREFORE** Plaintiffs pray that this Court award  
14 damages and provide relief as follows:  
15

16 I. For all allowable special and general damages.

17 II. For attorney's fees and costs of suit pursuant  
18 to all applicable law including 42 U.S. §12205, 42  
19 U.S.C. §1988 and Cal Civ. Code §52 and §54.  
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21 III. And for all other appropriate and just  
22 relief.  
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1 DATED: April 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

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RICHARD P. HERMAN  
NICHOLAS KOHAN  
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

11 DATED: April 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

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