

United States District Court
Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CANDACE STEEL, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. [3:18-cv-05072-JD](#)

ORDER RE MOTION TO DISMISS

Re: Dkt. No. 14

As alleged in the first amended complaint (“FAC”), Candace Steel was left alone in a jail cell to give birth to her child, Baby H, while in the pretrial custody of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office. Dkt. No. 10. Steel was not given any assistance or care during the delivery. Baby H was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck, and Steel had to stick her fingers into Baby H’s mouth to start respiration. Sheriff’s deputies went into Steel’s cell only after they heard Baby H cry.

Steel and Baby H are the plaintiffs in this civil rights action. Defendants are the Sheriff’s Office, certain individuals, the California Forensic Medical Group (“CFMG”), which is under contract with Alameda County to provide medical services at the jail, and the County itself. CFMG answered the complaint and is not a party to the pending motion. Dkt. No. 17.

The Alameda County defendants have challenged the sufficiency of the allegations in the FAC under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). Dkt. No. 14. Their main argument is that the FAC does not plausibly allege that plaintiffs’ injuries were the result of a government pattern, practice, or custom under *Monell v. Department of Social Services*, 436 U.S. 658 (1978). “*Monell* is a case about responsibility.” *Pembaur v. City of Cincinnati*, 475 U.S. 469, 478 (1986). It requires “a plaintiff seeking to impose liability on a municipality under [Section] 1983 to identify

1 a municipal ‘policy’ or ‘custom’ that caused the plaintiff’s injury” to “ensure[] that a municipality
2 is held liable only for those deprivations . . . [that] may fairly be said to be” its own. *Bd. of Cty.*
3 *Comm’rs v. Brown*, 520 U.S. 397, 403-04 (1997) (citations omitted).

4 These standards are amply satisfied here as a pleading matter. Plaintiffs allege that their
5 injuries arose out of the Sheriff’s Office’s contract with CFMG, which contained financial terms
6 that discouraged adequate medical care, including procedures such as labor and delivery, for
7 detainees. These allegations are sufficiently specific and concrete to plausibly state a policy or
8 practice under *Monell*.

9 The outcome is different for the California state law claims of intentional infliction of
10 emotional distress (“IIED”) and negligence per se. These claims are not adequately supported by
11 the facts and applicable law, and are dismissed with leave to amend.

12 BACKGROUND

13 Taking the FAC’s nonconclusory allegations as true for the motion to dismiss, *see Bell Atl.*
14 *Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555-56 (2007), the salient facts are straightforward. Steel was
15 arrested on misdemeanor charges by local police officers, and jailed at the Santa Rita facility in
16 July 2017. Dkt. No. 10 ¶ 37. The charges were subsequently dismissed.

17 At the time of arrest, Steel was visibly pregnant. Before going to the jail, the police
18 officers took her to a hospital “for the purpose of medical clearance.” *Id.* ¶ 38. Steel told the
19 attending hospital staff that she had used controlled substances during the pregnancy, had not
20 received any prenatal care, and did not know her due date. *Id.* ¶¶ 40, 42. She also said that she
21 had had seizures and a spontaneous delivery in a previous pregnancy. *Id.* ¶ 41. Doctors evaluated
22 Steel as at least 8 months pregnant and suffering from a urinary tract infection (“UTI”), which the
23 FAC alleges is a condition associated with early delivery. *Id.* ¶¶ 39, 43-44.

24 Steel was surrendered to the Sheriff’s Office and booked into Santa Rita Jail shortly after
25 midnight on July 21, 2017. *Id.* ¶ 37. The jail intake form noted the medical information from the
26 hospital -- Steel’s overall condition, lack of prenatal care, recent substance use, history of
27 pregnancy-related seizures, UTI diagnosis, and the fact that she was not sure about her due date.
28 *Id.* ¶ 45. Later in her first day at the jail, Steel reported painful uterine cramping and contractions

1 to the jail's medical staff from CFMG. *Id.* ¶¶ 47-48. She was taken back to the hospital, where
2 she tested positive for fetal fibronectin, which the FAC alleges is also associated with preterm
3 delivery, like the UTI. *Id.* ¶¶ 49-50.

4 Steel went into labor on July 23, 2017, approximately 60 hours after she arrived at the jail.
5 She told jail personnel that she was experiencing severe cramping and pain, and could not stand or
6 walk, but only crawl on hands and knees. *Id.* ¶¶ 51-52. Other inmates who saw Steel's distress
7 told the jailers that there was a medical emergency. *Id.* ¶ 53. A CFMG nurse examined Steel, and
8 concluded that her cervix was not dilated and that she was experiencing nothing but a stomach
9 ache. *Id.* ¶ 54. The FAC alleges that the nurse also said Steel was exaggerating her distress. *Id.*
10 After hearing the nurse's report, sheriff's deputies removed Steel to an isolation cell. *Id.* ¶ 55.

11 Steel went into labor and delivery in the isolation cell. She alleges that she spent hours
12 screaming in pain, alone and unattended, before giving birth to Baby H. *Id.* ¶¶ 57-58. In addition
13 to the obvious physical travails from giving birth without any modern palliatives or a physician's
14 care, Steel was distraught and terrified that she and her child could die in the cell. *Id.* ¶ 59.

15 Baby H was born with the umbilical cord around her neck. *Id.* ¶ 61. Steel noticed Baby H
16 was not breathing and stuck her fingers in Baby's H mouth to try to stimulate respiration. *Id.*
17 Only when deputies heard Baby H crying did they enter Steel's cell to attend to the mother and
18 newborn child. *Id.* ¶ 62.

19 The FAC states that Alameda County had outsourced medical care of detainees at Santa
20 Rita jail to CFMG. *Id.* ¶¶ 24-36. Plaintiffs allege that the contract with CFMG made it liable for
21 all costs associated with hospital stays and services, without any compensation from Alameda
22 County. *Id.* ¶¶ 25-28. They contend this arrangement created "a financial incentive and
23 imperative for CFMG to refuse and withhold inpatient hospitalization services to all inmates,
24 including inmates in active labor." *Id.* ¶ 33.

25 DISCUSSION

26 I. LEGAL STANDARDS

27 The pleading requirements in Rule 8, as construed in *Twombly* and *Iqbal*, apply to Section
28 1983 claims against local government entities. *AE ex rel. Hernandez v. Cty. of Tulare*, 666 F.3d

1 631, 636-37 (9th Cir. 2012). Under these familiar standards, the complaint must provide “a short
2 and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief,” Fed. R. Civ. P.
3 8(a)(2), including “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Twombly*,
4 550 U.S. at 570. “A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that
5 allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct
6 alleged.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 556). The
7 plausibility analysis is “context-specific” and not only invites, but “requires the reviewing court to
8 draw on its judicial experience and common sense.” *Id.* at 679.

9 To hold local entities like the Sheriff’s Office or Alameda County liable under Section
10 1983, plaintiffs must plausibly allege that “the challenged conditions were part of a policy, custom
11 or practice officially adopted by [those] defendants.” *Upshaw v. Alameda Cty.*, 377 F. Supp. 3d
12 1027, 1032 (N.D. Cal. 2019) (citing *Monell*, 436 U.S. at 690). Specifically, they must “identify a
13 custom or policy, attributable to the” government entity “that caused [their] injury,” and
14 “demonstrate that the custom or policy was adhered to with deliberate indifference to the
15 constitutional rights of [the jail’s] inhabitants.” *Castro v. Cty. of L.A.*, 833 F.3d 1060, 1076 (9th
16 Cir. 2016) (en banc) (internal quotation and citation omitted) (alteration in original). Deliberate
17 indifference is “an objective inquiry.” *Id.*

18 Steel’s Section 1983 claims arise under the Fourteenth Amendment’s Due Process Clause,
19 not the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. That is so because
20 Steel was a pretrial detainee at the time of the alleged misconduct and had not been convicted of
21 an offense. *See Upshaw*, 377 F. Supp. 3d at 1031; *see also Kingsley v. Hendrickson*, 135 S. Ct.
22 2466, 2475 (2015); *Castro*, 833 F.3d at 1067. To state a claim for inadequate medical care as a
23 pretrial detainee, Steel must plead facts showing that:

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25 (i) the defendant made an intentional decision with respect to the
26 conditions under which the plaintiff was confined; (ii) those
27 conditions put the plaintiff at substantial risk of suffering serious
28 harm; (iii) the defendant did not take reasonable available measures
to abate that risk, even though a reasonable official in the
circumstances would have appreciated the high degree of risk
involved -- making the consequences of the defendant’s conduct

1 obvious; and (iv) by not taking such measures, the defendant caused
the plaintiff's injuries.

2 *Gordon v. Cty. of Orange*, 888 F.3d 1118, 1125 (9th Cir. 2018). An objective standard again
3 governs here, which requires proof of "more than negligence but less than subjective intent --
4 something akin to reckless disregard." *Id.* (citations omitted).

5 The parties do not dispute that the same Fourteenth Amendment standards should guide the
6 evaluation of Baby H's federal civil rights claims. Baby H was not, of course, a pretrial detainee
7 when she entered the world in the isolation cell. But she was certainly in the custody of the
8 Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Consequently, although the parties did not brief this issue in
9 any detail, the Court concludes that the same legal standards apply to mother and baby under
10 Section 1983 because their claims are based on the same constitutional protections. *See Castro*,
11 833 F.3d at 1069-70 (applying *Kingsley's* standards for excessive-force claims to failure-to-protect
12 claims because the "underlying federal right, as well as the nature of the harm suffered, is the
13 same" in that both "categories of claims arise under the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process
14 Clause"); *Gordon*, 888 F.3d at 1122-25 (applying *Castro* to serious-medical-need claims).

15 As the Court has observed in another case against the Alameda County Sheriff's Office,
16 there is no doubt that jailers are entitled to a good measure of deference in determining the policies
17 and practices best suited to keep their facilities secure and safe. *Upshaw*, 377 F. Supp. 3d at 1031.
18 But this deference is generally not afforded in "medical care cases" because the "refusal or failure
19 to provide such care . . . typically do[es] not relate to security or discipline." *Chess v. Dovey*, 790
20 F.3d 961, 973 (9th Cir. 2015). The Alameda County defendants do not dispute this proposition for
21 the motion to dismiss. *See* Dkt. No. 14 at 3 n.2.

22 Plaintiffs' tort claims for intentional infliction of emotional distress require: "(1) extreme
23 and outrageous conduct by the defendant with the intention of causing, or reckless disregard of the
24 probability of causing, emotional distress; (2) the plaintiff's suffering severe or extreme distress;
25 and (3) actual and proximate causation of the emotional distress by the defendant's outrageous
26 conduct." *Hughes v. Pair*, 46 Cal. 4th 1035, 1050 (2009) (citations omitted). Negligence per se
27 creates a rebuttable presumption of a failure to exercise due care when a person:
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1 (1) . . . violated a statute, ordinance, or regulation of a public entity;
2 (2) The violation proximately caused death or injury to person or
3 property; (3) The death or injury resulted from an occurrence of the
4 nature which the statute, ordinance, or regulation was designed to
prevent; and (4) The person suffering the death or the injury to his
person or property was one of the class of persons for whose
protection the statute, ordinance, or regulation was adopted.

5 Cal. Evid. Code § 669.

6 **II. THE FAC PLAUSIBLY ALLEGES A SECTION 1983 CLAIM**

7 **A. The Sheriff’s Office Is A Proper Defendant**

8 The first challenge to plaintiffs’ civil rights counts goes to who is an appropriate defendant.
9 Alameda County itself is subject to a Section 1983 claim, and defendants do not suggest
10 otherwise. *See Rivera v. Cty. of L.A.*, 745 F.3d 384, 389 (9th Cir. 2014). They say, however, that
11 the list of named defendants should largely stop there, and that the Sheriff’s Office is not a proper
12 defendant.

13 The point is not well taken. Our circuit has typically treated sheriff’s departments
14 identically to counties under Section 1983. Many cases, including *Streit v. County of Los Angeles*,
15 236 F.3d 552 (9th Cir. 2001), which the parties discuss at length in their briefing, have allowed a
16 Section 1983 suit to proceed against a sheriff’s department and its county. The Alameda County
17 defendants say *Streit* should be disregarded because it did not expressly address whether a
18 sheriff’s office is a “person” under Section 1983. That is a questionable proposition in light of the
19 factual posture of that case, but even if defendants are given every benefit of the doubt in their
20 reading of *Streit*, they overlook other cases that weigh strongly against their position. For
21 example, *Rivera v. County of Los Angeles* begins with the proposition that “municipalities,
22 including counties and their sheriff’s departments, can . . . be liable under [Section] 1983 if” the
23 requirements for *Monell* liability are met. *Rivera*, 745 F.3d at 389. If an entity is subject to
24 *Monell* liability, it is a “person” under Section 1983. *See Monell*, 436 U.S. at 690-691; *see also*
25 *Jackson v. Barnes*, 749 F.3d 755, 764 & n.4 (9th Cir. 2014) (reviewing cases where county
26 sheriff’s department sued under Section 1983 as jail administrator).

27 The suggestion that the Sheriff’s Office should be dismissed because it is a redundant
28 defendant is also unavailing. Even though the County is also a party to the suit, the Sheriff’s

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1 Office is the only Alameda County defendant against whom plaintiffs have brought their Section
 2 1983 claims. Moreover, while the Court “may dismiss” redundant defendants, it is not required to
 3 do so. *Ctr. for Bio-Ethical Reform, Inc. v. L.A. Cty. Sheriff’s Dep’t*, 533 F.3d 780, 799 (9th Cir.
 4 2008).

5 **B. Plaintiffs Have Adequately Alleged A Government Policy, Custom, Or**
 6 **Practice**

7 Defendants’ main attack on the civil rights claims is that the FAC does not plead enough
 8 facts to plausibly allege that plaintiffs were injured by a government practice or program. In
 9 effect, defendants suggest that plaintiffs complain of a one-time incident for which Alameda
 10 County and the Sheriff’s Office are not responsible. *See Garmon v. Cty. of L.A.*, 828 F.3d 837,
 11 845-46 (9th Cir. 2016).

12 It is true that alleging a single instance of constitutionally suspect conduct may not be
 13 enough to state a Section 1983 claim. *See Doe v. Cty. of Sonoma*, Case No. 16-cv-005195-JD,
 14 2019 WL 4472422, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 18, 2019). But plaintiffs do more than just describe one
 15 catastrophic event. They allege that the contract between the Sheriff’s Office and CFMG
 16 established a de facto policy and practice of denying hospital care and other potentially costly
 17 procedures to detainees.

18 This satisfies *Monell*. In *City of Oklahoma City v. Tuttle*, 471 U.S. 808, 823 (1985), the
 19 Supreme Court described an actionable *Monell* policy as “a course of action consciously chosen
 20 among various alternatives.” The decision by Alameda County to outsource the medical care of
 21 detainees under a contract with CFMG was exactly that. The FAC states that jailers in San
 22 Francisco and Contra Costa counties use alternative providers -- namely their county departments
 23 of public health -- to provide health care within jails. Dkt. No. 10 ¶¶ 35-36. The Alameda County
 24 Sheriff’s Office consciously chose a different approach. It is also readily inferable that the Office
 25 could have drafted its contract with CFMG, or another provider, in any number of ways to balance
 26 financial considerations with adequate medical care for pregnant women in labor. Defendants do
 27 not say anything to the contrary, and do not dispute that the contract is properly understood as an
 28 official act, Dkt. Nos. 14 at 11; 16 at 3 n.4, or that it was entered into by the Alameda County

1 Sheriff's Office as plaintiffs allege, Dkt. No. 10 ¶¶ 24-36. Consequently, the contract "may fairly
2 be said to represent official policy." *King v. Cty. of L.A.*, 885 F.3d 548, 558 (9th Cir. 2018)
3 (citation omitted).

4 Plaintiffs have also adequately alleged that this "official policy" was "the moving force of
5 the constitutional violation." *Monell*, 436 U.S. at 694-95. The Sheriff's Office's contract with
6 CFMG "specifies that CFMG itself is solely responsible for all costs incurred in connection with
7 any health care services provided to inmates outside the jail and that CFMG is not entitled to and
8 will not receive any reimbursement from [the Sheriff's Office] for the cost of services provided to
9 inmates by hospitals or by any non-CFMG personnel." Dkt. No. 10 ¶ 25. "If an inmate receives
10 inpatient hospitalization services, CFMG must pay the total cost of the medical care provided,
11 regardless of the level of cost incurred." *Id.* ¶ 26 (internal quotation omitted). Inpatient
12 hospitalization includes "labor and delivery services." *Id.* ¶ 27.

13 Taken as a whole, these factual allegations amply support the FAC's claims that there was
14 "a financial incentive and imperative for CFMG to refuse and withhold inpatient hospitalization
15 services to all inmates, including inmates in active labor." *Id.* ¶ 33. Plaintiffs also expressly
16 allege that the "denial of necessary and appropriate medical services" to them "was imposed in
17 order to reduce CFMG's costs under its contract with" the Sheriff's Office. *Id.* ¶ 73.

18 Consequently, the FAC plausibly alleges that a government practice or policy caused their
19 injuries. Defendants try to avert this conclusion by saying that Steel was taken to the hospital on
20 two occasions after being arrested, including once after arriving at Santa Rita Jail. But the fact
21 that they provided a modicum of care does not vitiate plaintiffs' claims. *See Lopez v. Smith*, 203
22 F.3d 1122, 1132 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (noting a plaintiff "need not prove that he was
23 completely denied medical care" to assert a constitutional claim). The critical point is that
24 plaintiffs did not receive adequate care at the time they needed it most.

25 C. Plaintiffs Have Adequately Alleged Deliberate Indifference

26 Plaintiffs have also sufficiently pleaded that the policy manifested deliberate indifference
27 to their constitutional rights. "It is not sufficient for a plaintiff to identify a custom or policy,
28 attributable to the municipality, that caused his injury. A plaintiff must also demonstrate that the

1 custom was adhered to with deliberate indifference to the constitutional rights of [the jail’s]
2 inhabitants.” *Castro*, 833 F.3d at 1076 (internal quotation and citation omitted) (alteration in
3 original). This “objective inquiry” requires a showing that defendants were on “actual or
4 constructive notice that the particular omission is substantially certain to result in the violation of
5 the constitutional rights” of the jail’s inmates. *Id.* (citation omitted).

6 The FAC plausibly alleges deliberate indifference by defendants. Plaintiffs contend that
7 “Santa Rita Jail is not equipped with labor and delivery rooms or with other necessary and basic
8 equipment and facilities that are needed to care for women in childbirth,” *id.* ¶ 29, and that
9 “CFMG staff at Santa Rita Jail are not trained in caring for women in childbirth,” *id.* ¶ 30. This
10 state of affairs supports a finding of deliberate indifference in that the jail lacked appropriate
11 facilities to treat Steel, and the CFMG contract was a barrier to getting outside help. *See Hoptowit*
12 *v. Ray*, 682 F.2d 1237, 1253 (9th Cir. 1982), *overruled on other grounds by Sandin v. Conner*, 515
13 U.S. 472 (1995).

14 Additionally, the Sheriff’s Office “knew” that its policy “might lead to a constitutional
15 violation among its inhabitants,” because it was bound by “regulations aimed at mitigating the risk
16 of serious injury” to pregnant women in jail. *Castro*, 833 F.3d at 1076-77. *Castro* affirmed a
17 jury’s finding that the County of Los Angeles was deliberately indifferent to constitutional
18 violations because it had adopted regulations that barred exactly the sort of cell design that were
19 utilized in the jail at issue in that case. Here, the Sheriff’s Office was bound by a state regulation
20 that required a “pregnant inmate in labor [to] be treated as an emergency and [to] be transported
21 via ambulance to [an] outside facility.” Cal. Code. Regs. tit. 15, § 3355.2(j) (2018). It is clear that
22 the Alameda County defendants “had notice that their customs or policies posed a substantial risk
23 of serious harm to” pregnant inmates since their contract with CFMG made it less likely that
24 inmates in labor would be taken to the hospital as required by regulation, and they “were
25 deliberately indifferent to that risk.” *Castro*, 833 F.3d at 1078.

26 On a more fundamental level, there can be no doubt that the way defendants treated a
27 pregnant woman in labor is a textbook example of deliberate indifference. The FAC alleges that
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1 defendants intentionally isolated Steel in a cell, and ignored her while she gave birth. A higher
2 degree of indifference to a pretrial detainee’s medical needs is hard to imagine.

3 Plaintiffs have alleged all the facts needed to hold the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office
4 responsible for their constitutional injuries under Section 1983. Since the Sheriff’s Office does
5 not dispute that plaintiffs’ rights were violated, and the allegations in the FAC clearly meet the
6 requirements established by *Gordon*, plaintiffs have adequately alleged civil rights claims for
7 inadequate medical care against the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office.

8 **III. THE INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS CLAIMS**
9 **AGAINST THE ALAMEDA COUNTY DEFENDANTS ARE DISMISSED**

10 The claims for intentional infliction of emotional distress are barred by California statutory
11 immunity. California Government Code § 845.6 protects public entities and their employees for
12 injuries “caused by the failure of the employee to furnish or obtain medical care for a prisoner.”
13 Section 845.6 excepts from its protection “a public employee, and the public entity where the
14 employee is acting within the scope of his employment . . . if the employee knows or has reason to
15 know that the prisoner is in need of immediate medical care and he fails to take reasonable action
16 to summon such medical care.”

17 Although it resulted in no real help, deputies did ask a CFMG nurse to look at Steel while
18 she was in early labor, and so Section 845.6 is applicable and immunizes the Alameda County
19 defendants from both plaintiffs’ claims. According to the complaint, a nurse examined Steel after
20 other prisoners reported “to the control staff that Plaintiffs was [*sic*] experiencing clear medical
21 distress.” Dkt. No. 10 ¶¶ 53-54. While the nurse egregiously concluded that Steel had “a
22 stomachache, and [was] exaggerating her distress,” *id.* ¶ 54, medical care was summoned, and that
23 is enough for the Alameda County defendants to obtain immunity under Section 845.6. *See*
24 *Castaneda v. Dep’t of Corrs. & Rehab.*, 212 Cal. App. 4th 1051, 1074 (2013) (“Once summoned,
25 the quality of medical care is a matter of medical policy and practice, imposing on medical
26 practitioners a duty to exercise that degree of diligence, care, and skill possessed by other
27 members of the profession, but it is not a violation of the employee’s obligation to summon
28 medical care under section 845.6.”).

1 Plaintiffs say that Section 845.6 does not apply because they have not claimed medical
2 malpractice, but that misses the mark. The immunity provision is not written in terms of causes of
3 action like medical malpractice or IIED, but rather insulates public entities and their employees
4 from liability for injuries “proximately caused by the failure of the employee to furnish or obtain
5 medical care for a prisoner.” Cal. Gov’t Code § 845.6. As currently alleged, the claims for IIED
6 are an injury “proximately caused by the failure” to obtain medical care for Steel. For example,
7 the FAC states, “Plaintiffs in fact suffered severe and extreme emotional distress due to being
8 locked in an isolation cell at the Santa Rita Jail, without any medical care while in the throes of
9 childbirth.” Dkt. No. 10 ¶ 91. In fact, all the substantive paragraphs alleging a claim for IIED
10 depend on the lack of medical care. *Id.* ¶¶ 90-92. The California Court of Appeal has recognized
11 that Section 845.6 can protect covered entities from claims other than medical malpractice,
12 including specifically IIED. *Wright v. State*, 122 Cal. App. 4th 659 (2004).

13 Consequently, the IIED claims are dismissed. While the Court has some doubt that
14 plaintiffs can overcome the statutory bar in light of the facts alleged in the FAC, they are granted
15 leave to amend these claims.

16 **IV. THE NEGLIGENCE PER SE CLAIM IS DISMISSED**

17 Negligence per se is an evidentiary presumption of liability that arises if a defendant is
18 shown to have “violated a statute, ordinance, or regulation of a public entity.” Cal. Evid. Code
19 § 669. Plaintiffs allege that the Sheriff’s Office “violated [California Code of Regulations tit. 15,]
20 § 3355.2(b), by failing to provide Steel, who had a confirmed pregnancy, the benefit of a treatment
21 and care plan regimen.” Dkt. No. 10 ¶ 96. The regulation, which has since been repealed but was
22 in place when Steel was in custody, imposed an obligation on defendants to develop a plan of care
23 “within seven days of arrival at” the facility. Cal. Code Regs tit. 15, § 3355.2(b) (2018).

24 The timeline in the FAC undermines any application of the regulation to Steel. She is
25 alleged to have arrived at Santa Rita Jail on July 21, 2017, Dkt. No. 10 ¶ 37, and delivered Baby H
26 on July 23 or 24, 2017, *id.* ¶¶ 51-62. Since Steel gave birth after less than a week in the custody of
27 the Sheriff’s Office, there is nothing on the face of the FAC to indicate that the Sheriff’s Office
28 violated Section 3355.2(b).

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1 Plaintiffs have not provided a good reason for a different conclusion. While the plain
2 language of the regulation did not bar the development of a plan before the 7-day deadline, it
3 clearly did not require that. Plaintiffs mention some new regulations in opposition to the motion
4 to dismiss, but those were not cited in the FAC and will not be considered for motion to dismiss
5 purposes. Plaintiffs are granted leave to amend this claim, too.

6 **CONCLUSION**

7 The motion to dismiss is granted and denied in part. Plaintiffs' Section 1983 claim against
8 the Sheriff's Office will go forward. Plaintiffs did not oppose defendants' dismissal of their
9 Fourth Amendment causes of action, and so those claims are dismissed with prejudice. Dkt. No.
10 15 at 11. All other claims against the Alameda County defendants are dismissed with leave to
11 amend.

12 Plaintiffs may file an amended complaint by February 3, 2020, if they so choose. Plaintiffs
13 may not add any new claims or defendants without prior approval by the Court.

14 The Court is advised that counsel for the parties are engaged in settlement negotiations
15 before Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler on a number of related of cases. If the parties believe ADR
16 would be helpful in this case, they should file a request for a referral to Magistrate Judge Beeler by
17 January 3, 2020.

18 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

19 Dated: December 23, 2019

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22 _____
23 JAMES DONATO
24 United States District Judge
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