

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

**Tentative Ruling**

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**2024CUPA025617: JOANNE HUGULEY vs JACK BUTTERWORTH, et al.  
01/29/2026 in Department 43  
Motion for Order Compelling Plaintiff, Joanne Huguley, to (1) Answer Form  
Interrogatories, Set No. Two**

The morning calendar in courtroom 43 will normally begin at 8:45. Please arrive for your hearing no later than 8:30 a.m. The door will be opened before the calendar is called.

The Court allows appearances by CourtCall and Zoom. Refer to the Courtroom 43 webpage for more information about remote appearances. If appearing by CourtCall, call in no later than 8:30 a.m. If you wish to appear by CourtCall, you must make arrangements with CourtCall by 4:00 p.m. the court day before your scheduled hearing. Requests for approval of a CourtCall appearance made on the morning of the hearing will not be granted. No exceptions will be made.

For Zoom appearances, all counsel appearing by Zoom must email the court at [Courtroom43@ventura.courts.ca.gov](mailto:Courtroom43@ventura.courts.ca.gov) with a simultaneous copy to all other counsel/self-represented parties no later than 3:00 p.m. the court day before the hearing. INCLUDE THE PHRASE "ZOOM APPEARANCE ON (DATE OF HEARING)" IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL. The email must identify the person who will make the appearance. You will receive the login information for your appearance in reply to your email. If appearing by Zoom, log into the hearing no later than 8:30 a.m. The Court will transfer you to the meeting room when your matter is called. Additional instructions can be found on the Courtroom 43 webpage. When you log in to Zoom, be sure that your name and the case name are used as your Zoom name. IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW ALL OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS, YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO APPEAR BY ZOOM AT THE HEARING.

With respect to the tentative ruling below, no notice of intent to appear is required. If you wish to submit on the tentative ruling you can fax notice to Judge Coats's secretary, Ms. Brantner at 805-477-8790, stating that you submit on the tentative. Or you may email [Courtroom43@ventura.courts.ca.gov](mailto:Courtroom43@ventura.courts.ca.gov) with all counsel copied on the email. Do not call in lieu of sending a fax or email. If you submit on the tentative without appearing and the opposing party appears, the hearing will be conducted in your absence. If you are the moving party and do not advise the Court that you submit on the tentative, or you do not appear at the hearing, the Court may deny your motion irrespective of the tentative.

Unless stated otherwise at the hearing, if a formal order is required but not signed at the hearing, the prevailing party shall prepare a proposed order and comply with CRC 3.1312 subdivisions (a), (b), (d) and (e). The signed order shall be served on all parties and a proof of service filed with the court. A "notice of ruling" in lieu of this procedure is not authorized.

**Motions:**

- (1) Motion to Compel Plaintiff to Answer Form Interrogatories, Set Two; and
- (2) Defendants' Motion to Establish Admissions.

**Tentative Ruling:** On November 21, 2025, the Court granted motions identical to these. However, Defendant has informed the Court that the proof of service of those motions was defective having been served on Plaintiff's counsel after he was no longer attorney of record and Plaintiff was a pro se litigant. The motions were refiled to correct the proof of service error and were properly served on Plaintiff. There is no substantive difference in these motions and the original motions, the motions are unopposed and no responses to the discovery have been served, despite the additional time. (The Court notes that a substitution of attorney was filed on January 20, 2026, and Plaintiff is now represented. That filing does not change the ruling on the motions.)

The November 21, 2025, order granting the prior motions is vacated in its entirety.

1. Defendants' unopposed Motion to Compel Plaintiff to Answer Form Interrogatories, Set Two is GRANTED. Defendants have established that the discovery was properly served, and Plaintiff has not responded. Plaintiff Joanne Huguley is ordered to serve code compliant, verified responses, without objection, on or before February 13, 2026.

2. Defendants' Motion to Establish Admissions is GRANTED, unless substantially compliant responses are served before the hearing. Defendants have established that the discovery was properly served, and Plaintiff has not responded. The matters identified in the Requests for Admissions are deemed admitted.

The Court declines to award monetary sanctions.

Moving party is ordered to serve notice of the Court's rulings.