

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS**

MUZAFAR BABAKR,

Plaintiff,

v.

JACOB T. FOWLES, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 20-2037-SAC-ADM

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter comes before the court on pro se plaintiff Muzafar Babakr’s (“Babakr”) Motion for Extension of Time to File Motion to Compel Defendants’ Supplemental Discovery Responses. (ECF 107.) By way of this motion, Babakr seeks an extension of the local-rule deadline requiring a motion to compel discovery to be “filed and served within 30 days of the default or service of the response, answer, or objection that is the subject of the motion, unless the court extends the time for filing such motion for good cause.” D. KAN. RULE 37.1(b). Under Local Rule 37.1(b), a party may file a motion to compel within (1) 30 days, or (2) another time period for good cause shown.

Some judges in this district construe the local rule to require a party to move for an extension of time before the 30-day period expires. *See, e.g., Mayhew v. Angmar Med. Holdings, Inc.*, No. 18-2365-JWL-KGG, 2019 WL 1779754, at *1 (D. Kan. Apr. 23, 2019). This practice often results in boilerplate motions generically requesting an extension to allow the parties additional time to engage in ongoing discussions regarding their discovery disputes. For example, here, Babakr seeks the extension because he recently “sent an email to counsel for defendants asking whether they would provide more complete answers. Once defendants provide their

privilege logs, [Babakr] and counsel for defendants could arrange to meet and confer in order to discuss possible resolution of any issues in a manner that would avoid the need for [Babakr] to file a motion to compel discovery.” (ECF 107, at 2.) These types of motions rarely provide meaningful insight into the parties’ disputes or contain enough information for the court to determine whether the parties are truly engaging in efforts to resolve an identifiable discovery dispute. Such motions, including Babakr’s motion now before the court, are not sufficiently particularized to demonstrate good cause. Moreover, this practice results in potentially unnecessary motion practice on hypothetical motions to compel that often will never come to fruition.

Nothing in the plain language of Local Rule 37.1(b) requires a party to move for an extension of time to move to compel within the 30-day period. Rather, the court may find good cause for a party to file a motion to compel at any point during the litigation. The undersigned believes the better practice—one more in line with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 1—dictates that a party filing a motion to compel after the 30-day period demonstrate good cause in the motion to compel itself. Good cause exists if the moving party shows it acted diligently in attempting to resolve the particular discovery dispute at issue. Requiring a party to set forth good cause in the motion to compel will not only result in fewer unnecessary motions but a more specific and particularized showing of good cause.

Because of this, the court denies Babakr’s motion. If and when Babakr ultimately files a motion to compel, the court will expect him to demonstrate good cause for filing the motion to compel after the 30-day period set forth in Local Rule 37.1(b) by demonstrating in the motion itself that he acted with diligence in attempting to resolve the particular discovery dispute at issue.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Babakr’s Motion for Extension of Time to File Motion to Compel Defendants’ Supplemental Discovery Responses (ECF 107) is denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated May 16, 2022, at Kansas City, Kansas.

s/ Angel D. Mitchell
Angel D. Mitchell
U.S. Magistrate Judge