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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

MONICA HINOSTROZA,
Plaintiff(s),
v.
DENNY’S INC.,
Defendant(s).

Case No.: 2:17-cv-02561-RFB-NJK
Order
(Docket No. 16)

Pending before the Court is Defendant Denny’s Inc.’s motion to compel discovery. Docket No. 16. The Court has considered Defendant’s motion, Plaintiff’s response, and Defendant’s reply. Docket Nos. 16, 18, 19. The Court finds the motion properly resolved without a hearing. *See* Local Rule 78-1. For the following reasons, the Court **GRANTS** in part and **DENIES** in part Defendant’s motion to compel discovery. Docket No. 16.

I. Background

The instant case alleges a slip and fall accident at Defendant’s restaurant. Docket No. 1 at 15-20. In March 2018, Defendant requested various releases from Plaintiff to obtain documents regarding her employment, a prior car accident in 2015, and records from medical providers. *See generally* Docket Nos. 16-1 – 16-13. On March 21, 2018, Plaintiff provided some of the requested releases. Docket No. 16-9 at 3. In April 2018, the parties met and conferred three times regarding the outstanding releases, as well as Plaintiff’s responses to Defendant’s amended second set of requests for production of documents. Docket Nos. 16 at 4, 16-24. The parties were unable to

1 resolve their discovery disputes. Docket No. 16 at 4-5. Defendant, therefore, filed the instant
2 motion to compel the outstanding releases and responses to its requests for production numbers
3 23-30, 33, and 38. *Id.* at 5-6, 11-21.

4 **II. Standards**

5 A. Discovery

6 “[B]road discretion is vested in the trial court to permit or deny discovery.” *Hallett v.*
7 *Morgan*, 296 F.3d 732, 751 (9th Cir. 2002); *see also Crawford-El v. Britton*, 523 U.S. 574, 598
8 (1998). Parties are entitled to discover non-privileged information that is relevant to any party’s
9 claim or defense and is proportional to the needs of the case, including consideration of the
10 importance of the issues at stake in the action, the parties’ relative access to relevant information,
11 the parties’ resources, the importance of the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the
12 burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit. Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(1).
13 The most recent amendments to the discovery rules are meant to curb the culture of scorched earth
14 litigation tactics by emphasizing the importance of ensuring that the discovery process “provide[s]
15 parties with efficient access to what is needed to prove a claim or defense, but eliminate
16 unnecessary or wasteful discovery.” *Roberts v. Clark Cty. School Dist.*, 312 F.R.D. 594, 603-04
17 (D. Nev. 2016).

18 B. Motion to Compel

19 When a party fails to provide requested discovery, the requesting party may move to
20 compel that discovery. *See* Fed.R.Civ.P. 37(a). The burden is on the party resisting discovery to
21 show why a discovery request should be denied by specifying *in detail*, as opposed to general and
22 boilerplate objections, why “*each request is irrelevant.*” *FTC v. AMG Servs.*, 291 F.R.D. 544, 553
23 (D. Nev. 2013) (internal citation omitted) (emphasis added). This requires the party resisting
24 discovery to show for each request, irregardless of numerosity, how each of its objections is
25 applicable, by providing the relevant standard for each objection and a meaningfully developed
26 argument as to how the standard has been met. *See Green v. Baca*, 226 F.R.D. 624, 653 (C.D. Cal.
27 2005) (rejecting blanket claims of privilege as sufficient to address the applicable standard); *see*
28

1 also *Kor Media Group, LLC v. Green*, 294 F.R.D. 579, 582 n.3 (D. Nev. 2013) (courts only address
2 arguments that are meaningfully developed).

3 **III. Analysis**

4 Defendant asks the Court to compel Plaintiff to comply with numerous requests for
5 production that it propounded upon Plaintiff.¹ The Court considers each category of requests in
6 turn.

7 A. Request for Production Number 29 and Related Releases

8 Please produce copies of any and all documents related to the 2015 car accident
9 you identified in your response to Defendant's Interrogatory No. 18, including, but
10 not limited to, police report[s], medical records, property damage records and
11 photographs, insurance policies/claim notes, including claim numbers and
12 insurance carrier names, as well as the owners of the policy of insurance. If you are
not in possession of these documents, please provide the contact information for
the carriers and execute the attached release Exhibit "A."

13 Docket No. 16-24 at 8. Plaintiff objected to this request on the grounds that it is irrelevant,
14 overbroad, and unduly burdensome. *Id.*

15 Defendant submits that Plaintiff disclosed that she was in a car accident in 2015 and,
16 although she denies sustaining any injuries or receiving treatment, it "should be entitled to verify
17 this information" through an accident report, medical records, or the adverse insurance carrier.
18 Docket No. 16 at 11-12; *see also* Docket No. 16-15 at 15. Defendant further submits that
19 information from the adverse insurance carrier is relevant "[because] it contains the property
20 damage from the prior accident and [it will] confirm whether or not Plaintiff [was] indeed treated

21 ¹ As a preliminary matter, Defendant submits that the instant motion addresses, *inter alia*,
22 "[w]hether Plaintiff must produce/identify pre-accident diagnostic testing ... [and] documentation
23 concerning alcohol / drugs / medication consumed prior to the Subject Accident." Docket No. 16
24 at 6. Defendant, however, fails to meaningfully develop its arguments regarding these discovery
disputes, let alone address them, in the instant motion. The Court therefore does not address these
discovery disputes. *See Kor Media Group*, 294 F.R.D. at 582 n.3.

25 Plaintiff's response suffers from similar inadequacies. *See generally* Docket No. 18.
26 Plaintiff submits that "Defendant has not even acknowledged, let alone satisfied, its burden to '[
27 make a threshold showing that the discovery is relevant[]'." *Id.* at 7. However, Plaintiff fails to
acknowledge that, as the party resisting discovery, she has the burden to show why each request
is improper and how her objections meet the relevant standards. *See supra* Section II(B).

1 as a result of the 2015 accident.” Docket No. 16 at 12. Lastly, Defendant asks the Court to compel
2 information regarding two slip and fall accidents in 2012, for which Plaintiff was treated by Dr.
3 David Worman, an orthopedist, and a 2015 visit to a neurologist, whose name Plaintiff has not
4 provided. *Id.* at 7, 12.

5 In response, Plaintiff submits that she was not injured in the 2015 car accident and did not
6 seek treatment. Docket No. 18 at 8. Plaintiff further submits that Defendant’s “only basis for
7 seeking [the] insurance file is Defendant’s assumption that Plaintiff is lying.” *Id.* (emphasis in
8 original). In reply, Defendant submits that Plaintiff fails to address “why she had a CT [b]rain
9 scan in 2015.” Docket No. 19 at 5. Defendant further submits that the requested information is
10 relevant because the prior accidents may or may not have “contributed to Plaintiff’s alleged injuries
11 in the subject litigation.” *Id.* at 6.

12 Plaintiff’s complaint alleges multiple injuries and physical impairments, as well as future
13 lumbar surgery, due to her alleged accident at Defendant’s restaurant. Docket Nos. 1 at 17-19, 16-
14 18 at 35-37. Plaintiff’s discovery responses indicate that, due to two slip and fall accidents in
15 2012, she was referred to Dr. Worman, an orthopedist. Docket Nos. 16 at 7, 16-16 at 5-8. Plaintiff
16 has not, however, produced any medical records related to these incidents or to her treatment with
17 Dr. Worman. *Id.* Plaintiff has also failed to produce medical records related to a 2015 neurologist
18 visit and CT scan, as well as information substantiating her claim that she was not injured in the
19 2015 car accident. Docket Nos. 16 at 7, 16-16 at 2-4.

20 Medical records of injuries prior to an alleged accident are relevant to the issue of whether
21 the injuries existed at the time of the accident and whether the accident caused or aggravated the
22 injuries. *See Adele v. Dunn*, 2012 WL 5420256, at *2 (D. Nev. Nov. 5, 2012) (compelling the
23 identity of the plaintiff’s health care providers, as well as medical records of other accidents, from
24 ten years prior to the accident at issue, despite the plaintiff’s opposition that he had not been injured
25 in the past ten years and that medical records of other accidents do not exist, because the
26 “[d]efendant is entitled to reasonable discovery to determine whether [the plaintiff] suffered from
27 any pre-existing condition contributing to the injuries at issue in this case”); *see also Martin v.*
28 *Collier*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1411, at *6 (D. Nev. Jan. 4, 2012) (“Certainly in the interest of

1 justice the defendant in an action for personal injuries and loss of income has the right to determine
2 whether the injuries or conditions complained of result from any other injury or illness which the
3 patient-plaintiff has suffered”) (internal citation omitted).

4 Following a similar line of reasoning, police reports and insurance records are relevant
5 because they likely contain statements, photographs, or other information “to confirm or refute [a
6 plaintiff’s] allegation [he or she] was not injured” in an accident. *Adele*, 2012 WL 5420256, at *2
7 (compelling the plaintiff to produce “the police report or any other information regarding” a prior
8 car accident); *see also Hoang v. Trident Seafoods Corp.*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 55922, at *8
9 (W.D. Wash. July 23, 2007) (compelling accident or injury reports of prior similar accidents in a
10 workplace injury case). Although Plaintiff claims she was not injured in the 2015 car accident,
11 neither Defendant nor the Court is required to take Plaintiff’s word, without further support, as
12 true. *See Potter v. West Side Transp., Inc.*, 188 F.R.D. 362, 364 (D. Nev. 1999) (finding that the
13 defendants have the right to verify whether the plaintiffs’ claims that prior mental health issues are
14 unrelated to their current claim of emotional injury are true).²

15 As to the relevant time period, Courts within the Ninth Circuit have found that medical
16 records and reports dating between three years to ten years prior to an alleged accident are
17 discoverable. *See Adele*, 2012 WL 5420256, at *3; *see also Snyder v. Fred Meyer Stores, Inc.*,
18 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 85794, at * 11-12 (W.D. Wash. June 18, 2013) (narrowing the plaintiff’s
19 request for records of prior similar slip and fall accidents at the defendant’s store from five years
20 to three years); *Martin*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1411, at *11-12 (compelling mental health records
21 for an *in camera* review for a period of five years prior to the accident); *McGarry v. Holland Am.*
22 *Line-Westours, Inc.*, 2003 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25668, at *4-5 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 1, 2003) (narrowing
23 the plaintiff’s request for records of prior similar slip and fall accidents on the defendant’s cruise
24 vessel from ten years to five years).

25
26 ² The Court finds that the police report and insurance records are within Plaintiff’s control
27 “where, insofar as the records can be released – and perhaps can only be released – via an executed
28 authorization or release, Plaintiff, by either granting or withholding her consent, can determine
who may have access to them.” *Prado-Guajardo v. Perez*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 114844, at *3
(D. Nev. July 24, 2017).

1 Accordingly, the Court GRANTS Defendant's motion regarding request for production
2 number 29, as well as for the provider's name associated with the 2015 neurologist visit, and
3 medical records related to Plaintiff's visit with Dr. Worman, or any other doctors regarding her
4 two slip and fall accidents in 2012. The Court ORDERS Plaintiff to produce all responsive, non-
5 privileged information requested by July 20, 2018. The Court FURTHER ORDERS Plaintiff to
6 sign the releases for the police report and insurance information, and provide them to Defendant
7 by July 20, 2018. *See Prado-Guajardo*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 114844, at *17 (finding that
8 Fed.R.Civ.P. 34 and 37, in conjunction with Fed.R.Civ.P. 1, "gives courts the power to compel
9 parties to sign written authorization forms consenting to the production of various documents").

10 B. Requests for Production 23-28, 38

11 Please produce copies of any text messages, emails, or other written
12 communications between either you or your counsel and Ze Pereira[, Katia Moreno,
13 Starlin Burgos, Karla [], Yovanni Suasambar, and Maria Becerra] from the date of
14 the Subject Accident through the present.³

15 Please produce a copy of all text messages or emails you sent in the 48 hours after
16 the Subject Accident.

17 Docket No. 16-24 at 5-7, 11. Plaintiff objected to these requests on the grounds that they are, *inter*
18 *alia*, vague, ambiguous, irrelevant, unduly burdensome, and constitute a violation of Plaintiff's
19 right to privacy and confidentiality. *Id.*

20 Defendant submits that "Plaintiff's response [the interrogatory 11] admits she discussed
21 the Subject Accident with her witnesses."⁴ Docket No. 16 at 16. Defendant further submits that
22 "FRCP 26(e)(C) holds that any party can, upon request, obtain a person's previous statements
23 about the action...." *Id.* at 16-17. Plaintiff fails to make a meaningfully developed argument in
24 her response, let alone address, Defendant's requests. *See generally* Docket No. 18; *see also Kor*

25 ³ Requests for production numbers 23 – 28 request the same information as to Mr. Pereira,
26 Ms. Moreno, Ms. Burgos, Karla [], Ms. Suasambar, and Ms. Becerra. Docket No. 16-24 at 5-7.

27 ⁴ According to Plaintiff's response to Defendant's interrogatory number 11, the individuals
28 at issue in Defendant's requests for production numbers 23-28 are "expected to testify regarding
the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident ... as well as to the injuries, medical care and
treatment the Plaintiff received as a result thereof...." Docket No. 16-15 at 11; *see also* Docket
No. 16-18 at 3-4.

1 *Media Group*, 294 F.R.D. at 582 n.3. In reply, Defendant submits that Plaintiff fails to
2 substantially address the instant requests. Docket No. 19 at 6-7.

3 Phone records are discoverable if the request is narrowly tailored in date and time and
4 relates to a key issue in the case. *See Franklin*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 67074, at *7-13 (compelling
5 phone records from the defendant in a car accident case where the requests were sufficiently
6 limited in time, but further limiting the subject matter); *see also Spitzmesser v. Tate Snyder Kimsey*
7 *Architects, Ltd.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4629, at *12-13 (D. Nev. Jan. 12, 2012) (compelling phone
8 records from the plaintiff in a retaliatory discharge case, but further limiting the time period to six
9 months prior to termination and two months following termination); *Allstate Ins. Co. v. Nassiri*,
10 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15881, at *7-8 (D. Nev. Jan. 21, 2011) (“telephone records should be
11 limited to those that have some bearing on the claims or defenses in this case”).

12 Accordingly, the Court GRANTS in part and DENIES in part Defendant’s motion
13 regarding requests for production numbers 23 – 28 and 38. The Court ORDERS Plaintiff to
14 produce copies of text messages, emails, or other written communication she made with Mr.
15 Pereira, Ms. Moreno, Ms. Burgos, Karla [], Ms. Suasanbar, and/or Ms. Becerra that relate to the
16 alleged accident, as well as any resulting physical injuries or emotional distress. The Court
17 FURTHER ORDERS Plaintiff to produce copies of text messages or emails she sent in the 48
18 hours after the alleged accident that relate to the accident, as well as any resulting physical injuries
19 or emotional distress. Plaintiff shall produce all responsive, non-privileged information requested
20 by July 20, 2018.

21 C. Request for Production 30

22 Please produce copies of any [of] the data of any type of FitBit, or other activity
23 tracker device from five (5) years prior to the Subject Accident through the present.

24 Docket No. 16-24 at 8. Plaintiff responded to this request indicating that she has no responsive
25 documents in her possession, custody, or control, but reserved the right to supplement her
26 response. *Id.* at 9.

27 Defendant submits that “Plaintiff should be ordered to clearly state whether or not these
28 documents exist....” Docket No. 16 at 17. In response, Plaintiff objects to this request on the

1 grounds that it is overbroad and unduly burdensome. Docket No. 18 at 10. Plaintiff, however, did
2 not raise these objections in her initial response to Defendant’s amended second set of requests for
3 production and, therefore, the Court finds that she has waived these objections. *See Wilson v.*
4 *Greater Los Angeles Ass’n of Realtors*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 58595, at *8 (D. Nev. May 2, 2016)
5 (citing *Richmark Corp. v. Timber Falling Consultants*, 959 F.2d 1468, 1473 (9th Cir. 1992)
6 (internal citation omitted) (finding that failure to assert an objection to discovery requests
7 constitutes a waiver of an objection)); *see also* Docket No. 16-24 at 9. In reply, Defendant submits
8 that information obtained from an activity tracker is relevant because, “if Plaintiff is
9 walking/running miles every day, then this would affect the validity of her claim [and allegation
10 of future lumbar surgery].” Docket No. 19 at 7.

11 The Court does not have sufficient information to determine whether Plaintiff conducted a
12 reasonable inquiry to locate and produce responsive documents. *See Heyman v. Nev. ex rel. Bd.*
13 *of Regents of the Nev. Sys. of Higher Educ.*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 213972 (D. Nev. Dec. 27,
14 2017) (ordering the defendant, who responded to the plaintiff’s discovery request claiming that
15 she “[had] nothing responsive to this request in [her] custody or control,” to supplement her
16 response with a description of “the search she conducted for responsive documents as represented
17 in her Opposition”).

18 Accordingly, the Court ORDERS Plaintiff to supplement her response to Defendant’s
19 request for production number 30 to fully describe the search she conducted for responsive
20 documents, by July 20, 2018.

21 D. Request for Production 33

22 Please produce copies or allow for inspection, any social media account your [sic]
23 have from five (5) years prior to the Subject Accident through the present.

24 Docket No. 16-24 at 9. Plaintiff objected to this request on the grounds that it is, *inter alia*,
25 irrelevant, unduly burdensome, and constitutes a violation of Plaintiff’s right to privacy and
26 confidentiality. *Id.* at 9-10.

27 Defendant submits that information obtained from a party’s use of social media is relevant
28 and bears on claims of emotional distress, adverse emotional or mental state, and other emotional

1 injury. Docket No. 16 at 18-21 (internal citations omitted). In response, Plaintiff submits that,
2 despite the authority to which Defendant cites indicating limited and narrowed access into social
3 media for discovery purposes, Defendant's request remains "overbroad and unduly burdensome."
4 Docket No. 18 at 10. In reply, Defendant submits that this information is discoverable because
5 Plaintiff's "social media provides a contemporary diary" relevant to her pre-existing and current
6 physical and emotional limitations alleged in her complaint. Docket No. 19 at 10.

7 "Generally, [social networking] content is neither privileged nor protected by any right of
8 privacy." *Mailhoit v. Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.*, 285 F.R.D. 566, 570 (C.D. Cal. 2012) (internal
9 citations omitted); *see also Voe v. Roman Catholic Archbishop of Portland*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS
10 182641, at *6-7 (D. Or. Mar. 10, 2015) ("the content of social networking sites is not protected
11 from discovery merely because a party deems the content 'private'") (internal citations omitted).
12 Courts within the Ninth Circuit have permitted discovery of a party's social media information
13 and communications where the request was narrowed by websites or platforms, time-period, and
14 content related to the case. *See e.g., Dewidar v. AMTRAK*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1158, at *15
15 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 3, 2018) (compelling social media discovery in a personal injury case consisting of
16 "social media files and photographs of the trip, which gave rise" to the action); *see also Roberts v.*
17 *Clark Cnty. Sch. Dist.*, 312 F.R.D. 594, 608 (D. Nev. 2016) (limiting social media discovery in an
18 employment discrimination case to, *inter alia*, "content that contains a reference to this lawsuit,
19 ... [the plaintiff's] state of mind, [and] the plaintiff's emotional or physical response or reaction to
20 his transgender transition..."); *Voe*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 182641, at *4-7 (limiting social media
21 discovery in a sexual abuse case to, *inter alia*, events alleged in the plaintiff's complaint, any
22 mental health or substance abuse treatment, the plaintiff's sobriety, and the plaintiff's alleged
23 anxiety and depression); *Robinson v. Jones Lang LaSalle Ams., Inc.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS
24 123883, at *6-7 (D. Or. Aug. 29, 2012) (compelling social media discovery in an employment
25 discrimination case consisting of communications, "including profile postings, messages, status
26 updates, [and] wall comments, ... that reveal, refer or relate to any significant emotion, feeling, or
27 mental state allegedly caused by defendant's conduct or ... that could reasonably be expected to
28 produce a significant emotion, feeling, or mental state allegedly caused by defendant's conduct").

1 Such information from social media is relevant to claims of emotional distress because
2 social media activity, to an extent, is reflective of an individual’s contemporaneous emotions and
3 mental state. *See e.g., EEOC v. Simply Storage Mgmt.*, 270 F.R.D. 430, 435 (S.D. Ind. 2010) (“It
4 is reasonable to expect severe emotional or mental injury to manifest itself in some [social
5 networking site] content and an examination of that content might reveal whether onset occurred,
6 when, and the degree of distress...”). Additionally, social media discovery is “directly relevant to
7 ... allegations of a serious physical injury...” and loss of enjoyment of life. *Dewidar*, 2018 U.S.
8 Dist. LEXIS 1158, at *15; *see also Thompson*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 85143, at *13 (finding that
9 social media evidence relating to the plaintiff’s “physical capabilities and social activities is
10 relevant” to the plaintiff’s allegations of physical injuries, emotional distress, and impaired quality
11 of life).

12 Plaintiff alleges injuries to her “shoulders, back, bodily limbs, organs and systems, all or
13 some of which [the] condition[s] may be permanent and disabling,” as well as “physical
14 impairment, mental anguish, and loss of enjoyment of life.” Docket No. 1 at 17-19. The Court
15 therefore finds that social media information and communications are relevant and, thus,
16 discoverable under Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b). One moment of happiness illustrated by social media,
17 however, does not undermine a party’s claims. *See Voe*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 182641, at *7-8
18 (internal citation omitted). Therefore, social media discovery must allow the requesting party a
19 sufficient sample size from which a potential pattern of content could reveal an emotional or
20 mental state or physical capability that undermines a party’s claim.

21 Accordingly, the Court GRANTS Defendant’s motion regarding request for production
22 number 33 and ORDERS Plaintiff to identify all social media platforms (including, but not limited
23 to, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram) with which she has an account and allow her
24 counsel to review private, direct, and public postings, communications, and messages, as well as
25 photographs which she has posted, and in which she is tagged, referenced, or appears, for the time
26 period of February 22, 2015 to the present. *See Dewidar*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1158, at *15
27 (finding that discovery of social media information “one year prior to the accident to the present
28 day, represents a reasonable time period for [the defendant] to gather information in support of its

1 defense to [the plaintiff’s] claims of physical injury,” and compelling information such as
2 photographs and videos from Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram); *see also Voe*, 2015
3 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 182641, at *5-6 (compelling Facebook communications, including the plaintiff’s
4 profile, status updates, comments on his wall or his comments or other walls, and messages sent
5 to/from the plaintiff, which relate to various issues in the case); *Robinson*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS
6 123883, at *5-6 (compelling “online social media communications by [the] plaintiff, including
7 profiles, postings, messages, status updates, wall comments ... [and] photographs, or media clips,”
8 which relate to emotions or feelings allegedly caused by the defendant’s conduct).

9 Counsel shall disclose to Defendant all information which references the alleged accident,
10 is relevant to Plaintiff’s claims, and exhibits Plaintiff’s emotional or mental state, expressions, and
11 reactions related to the alleged accident by July 20, 2018.⁵ The Court expects Plaintiff’s counsel
12 to conduct the review in good faith and consistent with counsel’s obligation of candor toward the
13 Court and opposing counsel. *See Robinson*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 123883, at *6-7 (requiring
14 the plaintiff’s counsel to review and “determine what information falls within the scope of [the]
15 court’s order” compelling social media information); *cf. Westmoreland v. Wells Fargo Bank*
16 *Northwest, N.A.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15144, at *12 (D. Idaho Oct. 31, 2016) (denying the
17 defendant’s request to compel a third review of the plaintiff’s Facebook account because both the
18 plaintiff and her counsel “each spent several hours reviewing [the plaintiff’s] Facebook account
19 for any [relevant] information...”); *Voe*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 182641, at *9-10 (ordering the
20 plaintiff to “provide [his Facebook] profile to his counsel, to preserve the account for additional
21 review...”).

22 E. Employment Releases

23 Defendant requested that Plaintiff sign an authorization for the release of her employment
24 records because Plaintiff alleges lost wages and loss of earning capacity, and also because any
25 modification of her work hours is relevant to her alleged injuries and future lumbar surgery.

26
27 ⁵ Social media discovery must be limited as to the substance of the information or
28 communication, not merely “the simple fact that a claimant has had social communication.”
Mailhoit, 285 F.R.D. at 571.

1 Docket No. 16-10 at 2, 4. Plaintiff refused to provide the release because she claims she is no
2 longer pursuing a lost wage claim. *Id.* at 3.

3 Defendant submits that employment records are discoverable because, if Plaintiff alleges
4 future lumbar surgery, yet “can work 40 hours a week, then that affects the credibility of her future
5 medical claim.” Docket No. 16 at 12-13. Plaintiff fails to make a meaningfully developed
6 argument in her response, let alone address, Defendant’s request. *See generally* Docket No. 18;
7 *see also Kor Media Group*, 294 F.R.D. at 582 n.3. In reply, Defendant submits that Plaintiff fails
8 to substantially address the instant request. Docket No. 19 at 6. Defendant further submits that
9 the employment records are relevant to Plaintiff’s computation of damages. *Id.*

10 Employment records indicating information such as hours, wages or income, and
11 responsibilities before and after an alleged accident are directly relevant and, thus, discoverable,
12 where a plaintiff claims lost wages, loss of earning, or that the alleged accident negatively impacted
13 his or her employment or occupational performance. *See e.g., Prado-Guajardo*, 2017 U.S. Dist.
14 LEXIS 114844, at *8 (finding employment records relevant to claims of alleged injuries suffered
15 in a motorcycle accident). Indeed, such authorizations are commonplace and are frequently
16 produced without court intervention. *See e.g., Adele*, 2012 WL 5420256, at *2 (in a car accident
17 case, the plaintiff responded to the defendant’s request for production of employment records
18 reflecting any lost income or earning capacity as a result of the accident, as well as employment
19 records ten years prior to the accident, without court intervention); *see also Spargo v. State Farm*
20 *Fire and Casualty Company*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 96823, at *2 (in a car accident case, the
21 plaintiff responded to the defendant’s request for production of employment records by providing
22 signed authorizations, without court intervention).

23 Although Plaintiff submits that she is no longer pursuing a lost wage claim, an amended
24 complaint reflecting Plaintiff’s new claims has not been filed. *Compare* Docket No. 1 at 18 *with*
25 Docket. Nonetheless, it appears that Plaintiff’s claims of “limited occupational ... activities ...
26 [and] loss of earning capacity” remain in her complaint. Docket No. 1 at 18. The Court therefore
27 finds that Plaintiff’s employment records are relevant to her claim and, thus, discoverable under
28

1 Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b). Moreover, as an employee-plaintiff, Plaintiff's employment records are under
2 her control. *See supra* Section III(A) n. 1.

3 Accordingly, the Court GRANTS Defendant's motion regarding its request for Plaintiff's
4 employment records and ORDERS Plaintiff to sign the release and provide it to Defendant by July
5 20, 2018. *See Prado-Guajardo*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 114844, at *17 (finding that Fed.R.Civ.P.
6 34 and 37, in conjunction with Fed.R.Civ.P. 1, "gives courts the power to compel parties to sign
7 written authorization forms consenting to the production of various documents").

8 **IV. Conclusion**

9 For the reasons discussed above, the Court hereby **GRANTS** in part and **DENIES** in part
10 Defendant's motion to compel discovery. Docket No. 16. The Court **ORDERS** Plaintiff to
11 produce documents in response to Defendant's requests for production numbers 29 (as well as the
12 provider's name associated with the 2015 neurologist visit and medical records related to
13 Plaintiff's visit with Dr. Worman, or any other doctors regarding her two slip and fall accidents in
14 2012), 23-28 and 38 (limited to content that relates to the alleged accident, as well as any resulting
15 physical injuries or emotional distress), and 33 (in accordance with the parameters discussed
16 above, *supra* Section III(D)) by July 20, 2018. The Court **FURTHER ORDERS** Plaintiff to
17 supplement her response to Defendant's request for production number 30 to fully describe the
18 search she conducted for responsive documents by July 20, 2018. The Court **FURTHER**
19 **ORDERS** Plaintiff to sign the releases for the police report, insurance information, and her
20 employment information and provide them to Defendant, by July 20, 2018.

21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 Dated: June 29, 2018

23
24 
25 _____
26 NANCY J. KOPPE
27 United States Magistrate Judge
28