Leflore v. Funk et al Doc. 7

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

KEITH W. LEFLORE, SR.,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) Case No. 16 C 5193
DR. ARTHUR FUNK. et al.,)
Defendants.)

MEMORANDUM ORDER

Keith LeFlore, Sr. ("LeFlore") has just used the Clerk's-Office-supplied form of "Complaint of the Civil Rights Act, Title 42 Section 1983" ("Complaint") to file suit against Dr. Arthur Funk and the Illinois Department of Corrections, charging Dr. Funk with (1) failing to provide LeFlore last December (while he was in custody at the Stateville Correctional Center) with necessary medical care for what LeFlore asserts was a stroke (a claimed Eighth Amendment violation under Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97(1976) and its progeny) and (2) having hit on LeFlore physically (a claimed Fourth Amendment violation) when the doctor was supposed to be taking care of those medical needs. LeFlore has accompanied his Complaint with two other Clerk's-Office-supplied forms: an In Forma Pauperis Application ("Application") and a Motion for Attorney Representation ("Motion").

To begin with, because LeFlore is no longer in custody, the special provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915 ("Section 1915") applicable to prisoner plaintiffs do not apply to this lawsuit. And because the Application clearly reflects that LeFlore is unable to pay the filing fee or bear the cost of legal representation on his own, the Application is granted and the case will go forward.

As for the Motion, LeFlore has advanced a reasonably sufficient showing of having made

an effort to obtain counsel on his own, thus complying with our Court of Appeals' requirement

for such efforts before a designation of counsel from this District Court's trial bar to represent

him may be considered. Accordingly the Motion is also granted, and this Court has obtained the

name of the following trial bar member to represent LeFlore:

Dean B. Chalmers, Esq.

Chalmers and Nagel, P.C. 100 West Kinzie, Suite 250

Chicago, Illinois 60654

Phone: 312-346-0880

Fax: 312-836-0151

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As for the substance of LeFlore's claims, however, the Eleventh Amendment precludes

this federal court action against the Illinois Department of Corrections, and this Court sua sponte

dismisses it as a defendant. No view is expressed here as to the actual viability of LeFlore's

claims against Dr. Funk, as to which LeFlore's allegations must be treated as true for present

purposes.

Accordingly this Court is contemporaneously issuing its customary initial scheduling

order, and attorney Chalmers is expected in advance of the initial status hearing date (1) to

confer with LeFlore, (2) to arrange for the service of process by the United States Marshals

Service (see Section 1915(d)) and (3) to determine whether the case should proceed on the basis

of LeFlore's original Complaint or via an Amended Complaint.

Milton I. Shadur

Senior United States District Judge

Willen D Straden

Date: May 19, 2016

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