

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
SOUTH BEND DIVISION

NELSON MELVIN,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Cause No. 3:17-CV-540 JD
	)	
ELIZABETH C. HURLEY,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

OPINION AND ORDER

Nelson Melvin, a *pro se* prisoner, is attempting to sue a St. Joseph County Superior Court Judge for money damages based on judicial rulings during his State criminal proceedings. “A document filed *pro se* is to be liberally construed, and a *pro se* complaint, however inartfully pleaded, must be held to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.” *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007) (quotation marks and citations omitted). Nevertheless, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the court must review the merits of a prisoner complaint and dismiss it if the action is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.

Here, Melvin alleges that the Judge Elizabeth C. Hurley improperly scheduled and continued his trial, which violated his right to a speedy trial. However, a judge is entitled to absolute immunity for judicial acts regarding matters within the court’s jurisdiction, even if the judge’s “exercise of authority is flawed by the commission of grave procedural errors.” *Stump v. Sparkman*, 435 U.S. 349, 359 (1978). Melvin alleges that the judge acted improperly, but

