

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
NORTHERN DIVISION

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HENRY JOINER, #140 755

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Plaintiff,

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v.

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2:10-CV-392-TMH  
(WO)

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS, *et al.*,

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Defendants.

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**ORDER AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

On May 6, 2010, Plaintiff, a state inmate incarcerated at the Bullock Correctional Facility located in Union Springs, Alabama, filed an application for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). Pursuant to the directives of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), a prisoner is not allowed to bring a civil action or proceed on appeal *in forma pauperis* if he "has, on 3 or more occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>In *Rivera v. Allin*, 144 F.3d 719, 731 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998), the Court determined that the "three strikes" provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), which requires frequent filer prisoner indigents to prepay the entire filing fee before federal courts may consider their cases and appeals, "does not violate the First Amendment right to access the courts; the separation of judicial and legislative powers; the Fifth Amendment right to due process of law; or the Fourteenth Amendment right to equal protection, as incorporated through the Fifth Amendment."

## DISCUSSION

The undersigned takes judicial notice of federal court records<sup>2</sup> which establish that Plaintiff, while incarcerated or detained, has on at least three occasions had civil actions and/or appeals dismissed as frivolous, malicious, for failure to state a claim and/or for asserting claims against defendants who were immune from suit pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915. The cases on which the court relies in finding a violation of § 1915(g) include: (1) *Joiner v. Johnson, et al.*, Civil Action No. 7:99-849-SCP (N.D. Ala. 1999); (2) *Joiner v. Hayes, et al.*, Civil Action No. 2:05-CV-478-MEF (M.D. Ala. 2005); and (3) *Joiner v. Montgomery Police Dept., et al.*, Civil Action No. 2:05-CV-661 (M.D. Ala. 2005).

The court has carefully reviewed the claims presented in the instant action. Plaintiff complains about a denial of adequate medical care at the Bullock Correctional Facility from November 2007 to May 6, 2008. He further alleges that he was subject to excessive force by correctional officers on May 6, 2008 which exacerbated medical problems he sustained during an incident which occurred at the Hale County Jail in 2005. (*Doc. No. 1 and Plaintiff's Declaration.*)

The claims before this court do not allege nor in any way indicate that Plaintiff “is under imminent danger of serious physical injury” as is required to meet the imminent danger exception to the application of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). “A prisoner’s allegation that he faced imminent danger sometime in the past is an insufficient basis to allow him to proceed *in*

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<sup>2</sup>Available at <http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov/>.

*forma pauperis* pursuant to the imminent danger exception to the statute.” *Medberry v. Butler*, 185 F.3d 1189 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999). In order to come within the “imminent danger” exception, the Eleventh Circuit requires “specific allegations of present imminent danger that may result in serious physical harm.” *Skillern v. Jackson*, No. 606cv49, 2006 WL 1687752, at \*2 (S.D. Ga. June 14, 2006) (citing *Brown v. Johnson*, 387 F.3d 1344, 1349 (11th Cir.2004)). The “imminent danger” exception is available “for genuine emergencies,” where “time is pressing” and “a threat . . . is real and proximate.” *Lewis v. Sullivan*, 279 F.3d 526, 531 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002). General and conclusory allegations not grounded in specific facts cannot invoke the § 1915(g) exception. *Margiotti v. Nichols*, 2006 WL 1174350 at \*2 (N.D.Fla. May 2, 2006).

The court has carefully reviewed the claims presented in the instant action. Even construing all allegations in favor of Plaintiff, his claims in this complaint do not entitle him to avoid the bar of § 1915(g) because they do not allege nor in any way indicate that he was “under imminent danger of serious physical injury” *at the time he filed this cause of action* as is required to meet the imminent danger exception to the application of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). *Medberry*, 185 F.3d 1189.

Based on the foregoing, the court concludes that Plaintiff’s motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* is due to be denied and this case dismissed without prejudice for Plaintiff’s failure to pay the requisite \$350.00 filing fee upon the initiation of this cause of action. *Dupree v. Palmer*, 284 F.3d 1234, 1236 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002) (emphasis in original) (“[T]he proper procedure is for the district court to dismiss the complaint without prejudice

when it denies the prisoner leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* pursuant to the provisions of § 1915(g)” because the prisoner “must pay the filing fee at the time he *initiates* the suit.”).

### CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that the motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* filed by Plaintiff on May 6, 2010 (*Doc. No. 2*) is DENIED.

It is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge that this case be DISMISSED without prejudice for Plaintiff’s failure to pay the full filing fee upon the initiation of this case.

It is further

ORDERED that the parties shall file any objections to this Recommendation on or before **May 27, 2010**. Any objections filed must specifically identify the findings in the Magistrate Judge's Recommendation to which a party objects. Frivolous, conclusive or general objections will not be considered by the District Court. The parties are advised that this Recommendation is not a final order of the court and, therefore, it is not appealable.

Failure to file written objections to the proposed findings and advisements in the Magistrate Judge's Recommendation shall bar the party from a *de novo* determination by the District Court of issues covered in the Recommendation and shall bar the party from attacking on appeal factual findings in the Recommendation accepted or adopted by the District Court except upon grounds of plain error or manifest injustice. *Nettles v. Wainwright*, 677 F.2d 404 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1982). *See Stein v. Reynolds Securities, Inc.*, 667 F.2d

33 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1982). *See also Bonner v. City of Prichard*, 661 F.2d 1206 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1981) (*en banc*), adopting as binding precedent all of the decisions of the former Fifth Circuit handed down prior to the close of business on September 30, 1981.

Done, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2010.

/s/ Terry F. Moorer  
TERRY F. MOORER  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE