Williams v. Doe Doc. 2

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS NORTHERN DIVISION

MATTHEW WILLIAMS, # 202400847

**PLAINTIFF** 

v.

3:24CV00077-DPM-JTK

DOE DEFENDANT

## **ORDER**

Matthew Williams ("Plaintiff") is an inmate who filed a Complaint (Doc. No. 1) alleging violations of his federally protected rights but did not submit the \$405.00 filing fee or an in forma pauperis motion ("IFP Motion").

Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), a prisoner who is permitted to file a civil action in forma pauperis still must pay the full statutory filing fee of \$350. 1 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). The only question is whether a prisoner will pay the entire filing fee at the initiation of the proceeding or in installments over a period of time. Ashley v. Dilworth, 147 F.3d 715, 716 (8th Cir. 1998). Even if a prisoner is without assets and unable to pay an initial filing fee, he/she will be allowed to proceed with his/her §1983 claims and the filing fee will be collected by the Court in installments from the prisoner's inmate trust account. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(4). If the prisoner's case is subsequently dismissed for any reason, including a determination that it is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim, or seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief, the full amount of the \$350 filing fee will be collected and no portion of this filing fee will be refunded to the prisoner.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Effective December 1, 2023, the statutory filing fee for civil actions increased to \$405, due to the implementation of a \$55 administrative fee. This \$55 fee does not, however, apply to <u>in forma pauperis</u> actions.

The PLRA requires Plaintiff to submit a proper and complete IFP Motion, along with a calculation sheet prepared and signed by an authorized officer of the incarcerating facility, if he/she wishes to pay the filing fee in installments. Plaintiff must submit, within thirty (30) days from entry of this Order, either: (1) the statutory filing fee of \$405; or (2) a proper and complete IFP Motion, with the required calculation sheet signed by an authorized official of the facility at which he/she is confined.

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

- 1. Plaintiff must submit either the \$405 statutory filing fee or an <u>In Forma Pauperis</u>

  Motion within thirty days of the entry date of this Order.<sup>2</sup>
- 2. The Clerk of the Court is directed to send to Plaintiff an <u>In Forma Pauperis</u> Motion, together with the filing fee calculation sheet.
- 3. The Clerk of the Court is further directed to send Plaintiff a blank 42 U.S.C. § 1983 complaint form.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

JEROME T. KEARNEY UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Plaintiff is hereby notified of his responsibility to comply with the Local Rules of the Court, including Rule 5.5(c)(2), which states, in part: "If any communication from the Court to a <u>pro se</u> plaintiff is not responded to within thirty (30) days, the case may be dismissed without prejudice. Any party proceeding <u>pro se</u> shall be expected to be familiar with and follow the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure."