

United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

PAULA J. KARAS,

Plaintiff,

v.

ACCESS HOLLYWOOD,

Defendant.

No. C 12-02310 CRB

**ORDER GRANTING IN FORMA  
PAUPERIS AND DISMISSING CASE**

Plaintiff Paula J. Karas moves to proceed in forma pauperis (IFP) under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. Dkt. 2. A complaint filed by any person proceeding, or seeking to proceed, IFP under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) is subject to mandatory sua sponte review and dismissal if the complaint is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief maybe granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant immune from suit. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B); Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1126-27 (9th Cir. 2000). Having reviewed Plaintiff’s Complaint, the Court finds that the pleading fails to state a cognizable claim for relief. The Court GRANTS Karas’s IFP application, but that her complaint is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii) for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

**I. LEGAL STANDARD**

Any person seeking to commence a civil suit in district court must pay a filing fee of \$350. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). A district court has the authority to waive this fee for any person

1 who shows in an affidavit that he or she is unable to pay it. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1). A  
2 district court may dismiss the complaint of an IFP applicant at any time if it determines that  
3 the complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. 28 U.S.C. §  
4 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii). The legal sufficiency of a complaint is tested under Federal Rule of Civil  
5 Procedure 12(b)(6). Navarro v. Block, 250 F.3d 729, 732 (9th Cir. 2001). Under Rule  
6 12(b)(6), dismissal is appropriate if the complaint fails to state a facially plausible claim for  
7 relief. Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 556-57 (2007). That is, the complaint  
8 must state enough facts to raise a reasonable expectation that discovery will reveal evidence  
9 of the claim. Id. at 556. Dismissal is also appropriate when the complaint lacks a cognizable  
10 legal theory. Robertson v. Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., 749 F.2d 530, 534 (9th Cir. 1984).  
11 The district court must assume the truth of all factual allegations and construe them in the  
12 light most favorable to the plaintiff. Thompson v. Davis, 295 F.3d 890, 895 (9th Cir. 2002).  
13 However, pro se litigants are not “excused from knowing the most basic pleading  
14 requirements.” Am. Ass’n of Naturopathic Physicians v. Hayhurst, 227 F.3d 1104, 1107 (9th  
15 Cir. 2000).

16 **II. DISCUSSION**

17 Karas has shown in her IFP application that she is unable to pay the filing fee required  
18 to file a complaint. Pl.’s IFP App., Dkt. No. 2. Accordingly, the Court GRANTS her IFP  
19 application. Karas’s Complaint, however, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be  
20 granted.

21 In her Complaint, Karas claims that Defendant Access Hollywood violated her rights  
22 under the United States Constitution. Compl. 1. Dkt. No. 1. She alleges, in entirety: “Now  
23 comes the plaintiff pro se in the above captioned matter and hereby asserts to this United  
24 States District Court that the plaintiff’s United States claims against the defendants is that the  
25 defendants violated the plaintiff’s United States Amendment Rights under the United States  
26 Constitution as a media viewer.” Compl. 1. Plaintiff has also submitted an “Affidavit of  
27 facts,” dkt. 5, to support her “Motion for Trial,” dkt. 4. First, the Court notes these are  
28 improper filings, and all of Plaintiff’s claims and factual allegations must be included in the

1 Complaint. Moreover, the “Affidavit of facts,” includes only the following further  
2 information: “The plaintiff attests as a media viewer that for many years to present the  
3 defendants have violated the plaintiff’s United States Amendment Rights under the United  
4 States Constitution to view television media that is suitable for a media viewer.  
5 Unconstitutional media coverage of but not limited to indecent exposure, abortion and  
6 death.” Dkt. 5.

7 Plaintiff does not state which Amendments to the Constitution she alleges defendant  
8 has violated. The Amendment to the Constitution “apply to and restrict only the Federal  
9 Government and not private persons.” Public Utils. Comm’n of Dist. of Columbia v. Pollak,  
10 343 U.S. 451, 461 (1952). Federal government officials may be sued in their capacity as  
11 individuals. Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics, 403  
12 U.S. 388 (1971).


13 Here, Karas’s complaint fails to state a claim for relief under any Amendment to the  
14 Constitution because she fails to allege that Access Hollywood is an entity acting on behalf  
15 of the federal government. Karas’s Complaint also fails to state a claim for relief under 42  
16 U.S.C. § 1983, which provides a cause of action for constitutional violations committed by  
17 persons acting under the color of state law, as Karas does not allege that Access Hollywood  
18 acted under the authority of state law when it purportedly violated her rights. West v.  
19 Adkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48-49 (1988).

20 **III. CONCLUSION**

21 For the reasons set forth above, the Court GRANTS Plaintiff’s motion to proceed IFP.  
22 The Court sua sponte DISMISSES the action without prejudice and with leave to amend.  
23 Plaintiff has thirty (30) days to file an amended complaint. Failure to do so may result in  
24 dismissal of Plaintiff’s case with prejudice.

25 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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28 Dated: July 30, 2012

  
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CHARLES R. BREYER  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE