

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JASON RUSH,
CDCR #V-04604,

Plaintiff,

vs.

GEORGE J. GIURBINO;
DAVE KHATRI,

Defendants.

Civil No. 07-1599 LAB (NLS)

ORDER:

**(1) GRANTING MOTION TO
PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*,
IMPOSING NO INITIAL FILING
FEE, GARNISHING BALANCE
FROM PRISONER'S TRUST
ACCOUNT [Doc. No. 2];**

AND

**(2) DIRECTING U.S. MARSHAL TO
EFFECT SERVICE PURSUANT TO
FED.R.CIV.P. 4(c)(2) AND
28 U.S.C. § 1915(d)**

Plaintiff, an inmate currently incarcerated at Centinela State Prison located in Imperial, California, and proceeding pro se, has filed a civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.¹ Plaintiff alleges that Centinela prison officials violated his Eighth Amendment right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment when they denied him adequate medical care.

¹ The proceedings were assigned to this Court, but have been referred to Magistrate Judge Nita L. Stormes by Local Rule 72.3(e), "Assignment of § 1983 Prisoner Civil Cases to United States Magistrate Judges," pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636.

1 Plaintiff has not prepaid the \$350 filing fee mandated by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a); instead,
2 he has filed a Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (“IFP”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)
3 [Doc. No. 2].

4 **I. Motion to Proceed IFP [Doc. No. 2]**

5 All parties instituting any civil action, suit or proceeding in a district court of the United
6 States, except an application for writ of habeas corpus, must pay a filing fee of \$350. *See* 28
7 U.S.C. § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a party’s failure to prepay the entire fee only
8 if that party is granted leave to proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). *See Rodriguez v.*
9 *Cook*, 169 F.3d 1176, 1177 (9th Cir. 1999). Prisoners granted leave to proceed IFP however,
10 remain obligated to pay the entire fee in installments, regardless of whether their action is
11 ultimately dismissed. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1) & (2); *Taylor v. Delatoore*, 281 F.3d 844, 847
12 (9th Cir. 2002).

13 The Court finds that Plaintiff has submitted an affidavit which complies with 28 U.S.C.
14 § 1915(a)(1), and that he has attached a certified copy of his trust account statement pursuant to
15 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) and S.D. CAL. CIVLR 3.2. Plaintiff’s trust account statement indicates
16 that he has insufficient funds from which to pay filing fees at this time. *See* 28 U.S.C.
17 § 1915(b)(4) (providing that “[i]n no event shall a prisoner be prohibited from bringing a civil
18 action or appealing a civil action or criminal judgment for the reason that the prisoner has no
19 assets and no means by which to pay the initial partial filing fee.”). Therefore, the Court
20 **GRANTS** Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed IFP [Doc. No. 2] and assesses no initial partial filing
21 fee per 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). However, the entire \$350 balance of the filing fees mandated
22 shall be collected and forwarded to the Clerk of the Court pursuant to the installment payment
23 provisions set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

24 **II. Sua Sponte Screening pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) & 1915A**

25 The PLRA also obligates the Court to review complaints filed by all persons proceeding
26 IFP and those, like Plaintiff, who are “incarcerated or detained in any facility [and] accused of,
27 sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms or conditions
28 of parole, probation, pretrial release, or diversionary program,” “as soon as practicable after

1 docketing.” See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) and 1915A(b). Under these provisions, the Court must
2 sua sponte dismiss prisoner and all other IFP complaints, or any portions thereof, which are
3 frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim, or which seek damages from defendants who are
4 immune. See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A; *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1126-27
5 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (§ 1915(e)(2)); *Resnick v. Hayes*, 213 F.3d 443, 446 (9th Cir. 2000)
6 (§ 1915A).

7 Here, the Court finds that Plaintiff’s allegations, if presumed true as they must at this
8 stage of review, are sufficient to survive the initial screening provisions of 28 U.S.C.
9 §§ 1915(e)(2) and 1915A(b). *Lopez*, 203 F.3d at 1126-27 (9th Cir. 2000) (“The language of
10 section 1915(e)(2), as it applies to dismissals for failure to state a claim, ‘parallels the language
11 of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6).’”) quoting *Barren v. Harrington*, 152 F.3d 1193,
12 1194 (9th Cir. 1998); *Resnick*, 200 F.3d at 644 (when conducting sua sponte screening pursuant
13 to 28 U.S.C. § 1915, court must construe pro se pleadings liberally). However, Plaintiff is
14 cautioned that “the sua sponte screening and dismissal procedure is cumulative of, and not a
15 substitute for, any subsequent Rule 12(b)(6) motion that [a defendant] may choose to bring.”
16 *Teahan v. Wilhelm*, 481 F.Supp.2d 1115, 1119 (S.D. Cal. 2007).

17 **III. Conclusion and Order**

18 Good cause appearing, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

19 1. Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) [Doc. No. 2]
20 is **GRANTED**.

21 2. The Secretary of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or his
22 designee, is ordered to collect from Plaintiff’s prison trust account the \$350 balance of the filing
23 fee owed in this case by collecting monthly payments from the trust account in an amount equal
24 to twenty percent (20%) of the preceding month’s income credited to the account and forward
25 payments to the Clerk of the Court each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10 in
26 accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). **ALL PAYMENTS SHALL BE CLEARLY**
27 **IDENTIFIED BY THE NAME AND NUMBER ASSIGNED TO THIS ACTION.**

28

1 3. The Clerk of the Court is directed to serve a copy of this order on James Tilton,
2 Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 942883,
3 Sacramento, California 94283-0001.

4 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

5 4. The Clerk shall issue the summons, provide Plaintiff with a certified copy of both
6 this Order and his Complaint, and forward them to Plaintiff along with a blank U.S. Marshal
7 Form 285 for each Defendant named in his Complaint. Plaintiff shall complete the Form 285s
8 and forward them to the United States Marshal. The U.S. Marshal shall then serve a copy of the
9 Complaint and summons upon Defendants as directed by Plaintiff on each U.S. Marshal Form
10 285. All costs of service shall be advanced by the United States. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d);
11 FED.R.CIV.P. 4(c)(2).

12 5. Defendants are thereafter **ORDERED** to reply to the Complaint within the time
13 provided by the applicable provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(a). *See* 42 U.S.C.
14 § 1997e(g)(2) (while Defendants may occasionally be permitted to “waive the right to reply to
15 any action brought by a prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional facility under
16 section 1983,” once the Court has conducted its sua sponte screening pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
17 § 1915(e)(2) and § 1915A(b), and thus, has made a preliminary determination based on the face
18 on the pleading alone that Plaintiff has a “reasonable opportunity to prevail on the merits,”
19 Defendants are required to respond).

20 6. Plaintiff shall serve upon Defendants or, if appearance has been entered by
21 counsel, upon Defendants’ counsel, a copy of every further pleading or other document
22 submitted for consideration of the Court. Plaintiff shall include with the original paper to be
23 filed with the Clerk of the Court a certificate stating the manner in which a true and correct copy
24 of any document was served on Defendants, or counsel for Defendants, and the date of service.

25 ///

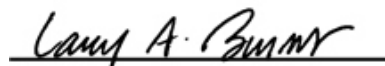
26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 Any paper received by the Court which has not been filed with the Clerk or which fails to
2 include a Certificate of Service will be disregarded.

3 DATED: November 13, 2007

4 

5 **HONORABLE LARRY ALAN BURNS**
6 United States District Judge

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28