

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**

DEREK J. BLOODWORTH,
CDCR# F-53229,

Plaintiff,

vs.

D. BEAZA,

Defendant.

Civil No. 09-2849 DMS (NLS)

ORDER:

**(1) GRANTING PLAINTIFF’S
MOTION TO PROCEED *IN
FORMA PAUPERIS*, IMPOSING
INITIAL PARTIAL FILING FEE
AND GARNISHING BALANCE
FROM PRISONER’S TRUST
ACCOUNT PURSUANT
TO 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)
[Doc. No. 2]; and**

**(2) DISMISSING CIVIL ACTION
FOR FAILING TO STATE A CLAIM
PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C.
§§ 1915(e)(2)(B) & 1915A(b)**

Plaintiff, a state inmate currently incarcerated at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility located in San Diego, California, and proceeding pro se, has filed a civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. In addition, Plaintiff has filed a Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (“IFP”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) [Doc. No. 2].

///

///

1 **I. MOTION TO PROCEED IFP**

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

10 Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915, as amended by the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), a
11 prisoner seeking leave to proceed IFP must submit a “certified copy of the trust fund account
12 statement (or institutional equivalent) for the prisoner for the six-month period immediately
13 preceding the filing of the complaint.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2); *Andrews v. King*, 398 F.3d 1113,
14 1119 (9th Cir. 2005). From the certified trust account statement, the Court must assess an initial
15 payment of 20% of (a) the average monthly deposits in the account for the past six months, or
16 (b) the average monthly balance in the account for the past six months, whichever is greater,
17 unless the prisoner has no assets. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1); 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(4). The
18 institution having custody of the prisoner must collect subsequent payments, assessed at 20%
19 of the preceding month’s income, in any month in which the prisoner’s account exceeds \$10, and
20 forward those payments to the Court until the entire filing fee is paid. *See* 28 U.S.C.
21 § 1915(b)(2).

22 The Court finds that Plaintiff has submitted a certified copy of his trust account statement
23 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) and S.D. CAL. CIVLR 3.2. *Andrews*, 398 F.3d at 1119.
24 Plaintiff’s statement shows a current available balance of \$21.85, an average monthly balance
25 of \$40.00, and average monthly deposits totaling \$30.00. Based on this financial information,
26 the Court GRANTS Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed IFP [Doc. No. 2] and assesses an initial partial
27 filing fee of \$8.00 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

28 ///

1 However, the Secretary for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
2 or his designee, shall collect this initial fee *only if sufficient funds in Plaintiff's account are*
3 *available at the time this Order is executed* pursuant to the directions set forth below. *See* 28
4 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(4) (providing that “[i]n no event shall a prisoner be prohibited from bringing
5 a civil action or appealing a civil action or criminal judgment for the reason that the prisoner has
6 no assets and no means by which to pay the initial partial filing fee.”); *Taylor v. Delatoore*, 281
7 F.3d 844, 850 (9th Cir. 2002) (finding that 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(4) acts as a “safety-valve”
8 preventing dismissal of a prisoner’s IFP case based solely on a “failure to pay ... due to the lack
9 of funds available to him when payment is ordered.”). The remaining balance shall be collected
10 and forwarded to the Clerk of the Court pursuant to the installment payment provisions set forth
11 in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

12 **II. SCREENING PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) & 1915A(b)**

13 The PLRA’s amendments to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 also obligate the Court to review
14 complaints filed by all persons proceeding IFP and by those, like Plaintiff, who are “incarcerated
15 or detained in any facility [and] accused of, sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for,
16 violations of criminal law or the terms or conditions of parole, probation, pretrial release, or
17 diversionary program,” “as soon as practicable after docketing.” *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B)
18 and 1915A(b). Under these provisions, the Court must sua sponte dismiss any prisoner civil
19 action and all other IFP complaints, or any portions thereof, which are frivolous, malicious, fail
20 to state a claim, or which seek damages from defendants who are immune. *See* 28 U.S.C.
21 §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A; *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1126-27 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc)
22 (§ 1915(e)(2)); *Resnick v. Hayes*, 213 F.3d 443, 446 n.1 (9th Cir. 2000) (§ 1915A).

23 **A. 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

24 To state a claim under § 1983, Plaintiff must allege that: (1) the conduct he complains
25 of was committed by a person acting under color of state law; and (2) that conduct violated a
26 right secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States. *Humphries v. County of Los*
27 *Angeles*, 554 F.3d 1170, 1184 (9th Cir. 2009) (citing *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988)).

28 ///

///

1 **B. First Amendment claims**

2 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Beaza violated his rights under the First Amendment
3 when he refused to allow Plaintiff to speak to his defense counsel privately prior to his
4 arraignment in a criminal matter. (*See* Compl. at 4-5.)

5 “[A] prison inmate retains those First Amendment rights that are not inconsistent with his
6 [or her] status as a prisoner or with the legitimate penological objectives of the corrections
7 system.” *Pell v. Procunier*, 417 U.S. 817, 822 (1974). “Prisoners have a First Amendment right
8 to telephone access, subject to reasonable security limitations.” *Keenan v. Hall*, 83 F.3d 1083,
9 1092 (9th Cir. 1996). However, a prison regulation that impinges on an inmate’s constitutional
10 right “is valid if it is reasonably related to legitimate penological interests.” *Turner v. Safely*,
11 482 U.S. 78, 89 (1987). Moreover, the Court must consider whether “there are alternative means
12 of exercising the right that remain open to prison inmates.” *Id.* at 90.

13 Here, while Plaintiff objects to the presence of a correctional officer while attempting to
14 speak with his defense counsel, he fails to allege the lack of a legitimate penological interest.
15 Moreover, he fails to allege any fact regarding a lack of alternative means by which he could
16 have communicated with his counsel prior to his arraignment. Thus, Plaintiff’s First
17 Amendment claims are dismissed for failing to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

18 **C. Fifth Amendment claims**

19 Plaintiff claims that “Defendant’s eavesdropping on plaintiff’s attorney/client conference
20 had an effect of compelling plaintiff to be a witness against himself in violation of the 5th
21 Amendment.” (Compl. at 7.) The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides
22 in part that “no person . . . shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against
23 himself.” U.S. CONST. amend. V. Plaintiff alleges no facts that would support a Fifth
24 Amendment claim. While Plaintiff claims that the eavesdropping occurred prior to his video
25 taped arraignment, he does not allege that he was in any “real or appreciable danger of self-
26 incrimination.” *McCoy v. Comm’r*, 696 F.2d 1234, 1236 (9th Cir. 1983). “If the threat is remote,
27 unlikely, or speculative, the privilege does not apply.” *Id.*

28 ///

1 Here, Plaintiff fails to state sufficient factual allegations as to how any statements he
2 made in the presence of Defendant Beaza would be used against him. Accordingly, Plaintiff's
3 Fifth Amendment claims are dismissed for failing to state a claim.

4 **D. Sixth Amendment**

5 Plaintiff further alleges that Defendant Beaza's "eavesdropping on plaintiff's
6 attorney/client conference was an improper governmental intrusion and interference with
7 plaintiff's attorney/client relationship" in violation of his Sixth Amendment rights. (Compl. at
8 8.) However, mere allegations of government intrusion of the attorney client privilege "is not
9 sufficient by itself to cause a Sixth Amendment violation." *U.S. v. Hernandez*, 937 F.2d 1490,
10 1493 (9th Cir. 1991). Rather the Plaintiff must allege and later demonstrate that he was actually
11 prejudiced by these actions. *Id.* Here, Plaintiff fails to allege how he was prejudiced at his
12 arraignment by the alleged eavesdropping of Defendant Beaza. Accordingly, Plaintiff's Sixth
13 Amendment claims are dismissed for failing to state a claim.

14 **E. State Law Claims**

15 Plaintiff also brings a number of state law claims in this action. However, because
16 Plaintiff cannot identify a violation of a federal law, the Court exercises its discretion to dismiss
17 Plaintiff's pendent state law claims without prejudice. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3) ("The district
18 court may decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over a claim under subsection (a) if ...
19 the district court has dismissed all claims over which it has original jurisdiction."); *United Mine*
20 *Workers of America v. Gibbs*, 383 U.S. 715, 726 (1966) ("if the federal claims are dismissed
21 before trial, ... the state claims should be dismissed as well."); *Acri v. Varian Assoc., Inc.*, 114
22 F.3d 999, 1000 (9th Cir. 1997) ("[O]nce judicial power exists under § 1367(a), retention of
23 supplemental jurisdiction over state law claims under 1367(c) is discretionary.").

24 Accordingly, the Court must DISMISS Plaintiff's Complaint for all the reasons set forth
25 above but will provide Plaintiff with the opportunity to amend his Complaint to correct the
26 deficiencies of pleading identified by the Court.

27 ///

28 ///

1 **III. CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

2 Good cause appearing therefor, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

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

5 2. The Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or
6 his designee, is ordered to collect the \$8.00 initial partial filing fee assessed by this Order and
7 forward that amount to the Clerk of Court, *if those funds are available at the time this Order*
8 *is executed*. THE INITIAL PARTIAL FILING FEE SHALL BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED BY
9 THE NAME AND NUMBER ASSIGNED TO THIS ACTION.

10 3. The Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or
11 his designee, is ordered to collect from Plaintiff's prison trust account the balance of the \$350
12 filing fee owed in this case by collecting monthly payments from Plaintiff's prison trust account
13 in an amount equal to twenty percent (20%) of the preceding month's income credited to the
14 account and forward payments to the Clerk of the Court each time the amount in the account
15 exceeds \$10 in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). ALL MONTHLY PAYMENTS
16 SHALL BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED BY THAT NAME AND NUMBER ASSIGNED TO
17 THIS ACTION.

18 4. The Clerk of the Court is directed to serve a copy of this Order on Matthew Cate,
19 Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 1515 S Street, Suite 502,
20 Sacramento, California 95814.

21 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

22 5. Plaintiff's Complaint is **DISMISSED** without prejudice for failing to state a claim
23 upon which relief may be granted pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) and § 1915A(b).
24 However, Plaintiff is further **GRANTED** forty five (45) days leave from the date this Order is
25 filed in which to file a First Amended Complaint which cures all the deficiencies of pleading
26 noted above.

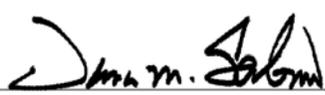
27 ///

28 ///

1 Plaintiff's Amended Complaint must be complete in itself without reference to his
2 previous pleading. *See* S.D. CAL. CIVLR 15.1. Defendants not named and all claims not re-
3 alleged in the Amended Complaint will be considered waived. *See King v. Atiyeh*, 814 F.2d 565,
4 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

5 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

6
7 DATED: February 1, 2010

8 
9 _____
10 HON. DANA M. SABRAW
11 United States District Judge

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28