

FILED

13 DEC 23 PM 3:53

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BY: 

DEPUTY

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
10

11 EDWARD STEVEN DAVIS,  
12 Inmate Booking No. 13711805,

13 Plaintiff,

14  
15 vs.

16  
17 WILLIAM J. McGRATH; STATE OF  
18 CALIFORNIA,

19 Defendants.  
20  
21

Civil No. 13cv2854 LAB (WVG)

**ORDER DENYING MOTION TO  
PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*  
AND DISMISSING CASE WITHOUT  
PREJUDICE PURSUANT TO  
28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)**

**[ECF No. 4]**

22 Plaintiff, currently held in the George Bailey Detention Facility located in San Diego,  
23 California, and proceeding pro se, has filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C.  
24 § 1983. Plaintiff has not prepaid the \$350 filing fee mandated by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a); instead,  
25 he has filed a Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* ("IFP") pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)  
26 [ECF No. 4].  
27 ///  
28 ///

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 \$400.<sup>1</sup> See 28  
4 U.S.C. § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a party's failure to pay only if the party is  
5 granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis ("IFP") pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). See  
6 *Andrews v. Cervantes*, 493 F.3d 1047, 1051 (9th Cir. 2007); *Rodriguez v. Cook*, 169 F.3d 1176,  
7 1177 (9th Cir. 1999). "Under the PLRA [Prison Litigation Reform Act], all prisoners who file  
8 IFP civil actions must pay the full amount of the filing fee," regardless of whether the action is  
9 ultimately dismissed for any reason. See *Taylor v. Delatoore*, 281 F.3d 844, 847 (9th Cir. 2002)  
10 (citing 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1) & (2)).

11 In order to comply with the PLRA, prisoners seeking leave to proceed IFP must also  
12 submit a "certified copy of the trust fund account statement (or institutional equivalent) for the  
13 prisoner for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint...." 28 U.S.C.  
14 § 1915(a)(2). From the certified trust account statement, the Court assesses an initial payment  
15 of 20% of (a) the average monthly deposits in the account for the past six months, or (b) the  
16 average monthly balance in the account for the past six months, whichever is greater, unless the  
17 prisoner has no assets. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1), (4); see *Taylor*, 281 F.3d at 850. Thereafter,  
18 the 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 While Plaintiff has filed a Motion to Proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a), he has  
23 not attached a certified copy of his prison trust account statement for the 6-month period  
24 immediately preceding the filing of his Complaint. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2); S.D. CAL.  
25 CIVLR 3.2. Section 1915(a)(2) clearly mandates that prisoners "seeking to bring a civil action  
26

---

27 <sup>1</sup>In addition to the \$350 statutory fee, all parties filing civil actions on or after May 1, 2013, must  
28 pay an additional administrative fee of \$50. See 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a) (Judicial Conference Schedule of  
Fees, District Court Misc. Fee Schedule) (eff. May 1, 2013). However, the additional \$50 administrative  
fee is waived if the plaintiff is granted leave to proceed IFP. Id.

1 ...without prepayment of fees ... *shall* submit a certified copy of the trust fund account statement  
2 (or institutional equivalent) ... for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of the  
3 complaint.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) (emphasis added).

4 Without Plaintiff’s trust account statement, the Court is simply unable to assess the  
5 appropriate amount of the filing fee which is statutorily required to initiate the prosecution of  
6 this action. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

7 **II. CONCLUSION AND ORDER**


8 For the reasons set forth above, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

9 (1) Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed IFP [ECF No. 4] is DENIED and the action is  
10 DISMISSED without prejudice for failure to prepay the \$350 filing fee mandated by 28 U.S.C.  
11 § 1914(a).

12 (2) Plaintiff is GRANTED an additional forty-five (45) days from the date of this  
13 Order to either: (1) pay the entire \$400 statutory and administrative filing fee, **or** (2) file a new  
14 Motion to Proceed IFP, *which includes a certified copy of his trust account statement for the 6-*  
15 *month period preceding the filing of his Complaint* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) and S.D.  
16 CAL. CIVLR 3.2(b).

17 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of the Court shall provide Plaintiff with a  
18 Court-approved form “Motion and Declaration in Support of Motion to Proceed IFP” in this  
19 matter. If Plaintiff neither pays the \$400 filing fee in full nor sufficiently completes and files  
20 the attached Motion to Proceed IFP, *together with a certified copy of his trust account statement*  
21 *within 45 days*, this action shall remained closed without further Order of the Court.

22  
23 DATED: 12-23-13

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HON. LARRY ALAN BURNS  
United States District Judge