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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TONY BLACKMAN,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
DANIEL A. PARAMO, et al.,  
  
Defendants.

Case No.: 3:16-cv-03072-JLS-JMA  
  
**ORDER DENYING MOTION TO  
PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS  
AND DISMISSING ACTION  
WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Tony Blackman (“Plaintiff”), a state inmate currently housed at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (“RJD”) located in San Diego, California, and proceeding pro se, has filed a civil rights complaint (“Compl.”) pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (ECF. No. 1). Plaintiff has not prepaid the civil filing fee required by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a); instead, he has filed a Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (“IFP”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) (Doc. No. 11).

**I. Motion to Proceed IFP**

All parties instituting any civil action, suit, or proceeding in a district court of the United States, except an application for writ of habeas corpus, must pay a filing fee of

1 \$400. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a plaintiff’s failure to  
2 prepay the entire fee only if he is granted leave to proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
3 § 1915(a). *See Rodriguez v. Cook*, 169 F.3d 1176, 1177 (9th Cir. 1999). However, if the  
4 plaintiff is a prisoner at the time of filing, he may be granted leave to proceed IFP, but he  
5 nevertheless remains obligated to pay the entire fee in “increments,” *see Williams v.*  
6 *Paramo*, 775 F.3d 1182, 1185 (9th Cir. 2015), regardless of whether his action is  
7 ultimately dismissed, *see* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1) & (2); *Taylor v. Delatoore*, 281 F.3d  
8 844, 847 (9th Cir. 2002). A “prisoner” is defined as “any person” who at the time of  
9 filing is “incarcerated or detained in any facility who is accused of, convicted of,  
10 sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms or  
11 conditions of parole, probation, pretrial release, or diversionary program.” 28 U.S.C.  
12 § 1915(h); *Taylor*, 281 F.3d at 847.

13         In order to comply with the PLRA, prisoners seeking leave to proceed IFP must  
14 also submit a “certified copy of the[ir] trust fund account statement (or institutional  
15 equivalent) . . . for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint.  
16 . . .” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). From the certified trust account statement, the Court  
17 assesses an initial payment of 20% of (a) the average monthly deposits in the account for  
18 the past six months, or (b) the average monthly balance in the account for the past six  
19 months, whichever is greater, unless the prisoner has no assets. *See* 28 U.S.C.  
20 § 1915(b)(1), (4); *see Taylor*, 281 F.3d at 850. Thereafter, the institution having custody  
21 of the prisoner collects subsequent payments, assessed at 20% of the preceding month’s  
22 income, in any month in which the prisoner’s account exceeds \$10, and forwards them to  
23 the Court until the entire filing fee is paid. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2).

24         While Plaintiff has filed a Motion to Proceed IFP pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a),  
25 he has not attached a certified copy of his trust account statements, or an institutional  
26 equivalent, for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of his Complaint. *See*  
27 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2); S.D. Cal. CivLR 3.2. Section 1915(a)(2) requires that prisoners  
28 “seeking to bring a civil action . . . without prepayment of fees . . . shall submit a certified

1 copy of the trust fund account statement (or institutional equivalent) . . . for the 6-month  
2 period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2)  
3 (emphasis added). Instead, Plaintiff has filed a trust account statement dated for the time  
4 period from November 1, 2006 to May 29, 2007. (*See* ECF. No. 11, at 3.)

5 Without Plaintiff’s current trust account statement reflecting the 6-month period  
6 immediately preceding the filing of this action, the Court is simply unable to assess the  
7 appropriate amount of the initial filing fee which is statutorily required to initiate the  
8 prosecution of this action. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

9 **II. Conclusion and Order**

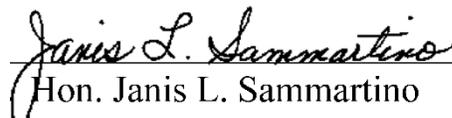
10 For these reasons, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

11 (1) Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed IFP (Doc. No. 11) is **DENIED** and the action  
12 is **DISMISSED** without prejudice for failure to prepay the \$400 filing fee required by 28  
13 U.S.C. § 1914(a).

14 (2) Plaintiff is **GRANTED** forty-five (45) days from the date of this Order in  
15 which to re-open his case by either: (1) paying the entire \$400 statutory and  
16 administrative filing fee, or (2) filing a new Motion to Proceed IFP, which includes a  
17 certified copy of his trust account statement for the 6-month period preceding the filing of  
18 his Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2) and S.D. Cal. CivLR 3.2(b).

19 (3) The Clerk of the Court is **DIRECTED** to provide Plaintiff with a Court-  
20 approved form “Motion and Declaration in Support of Motion to Proceed IFP” in this  
21 matter. If Plaintiff neither pays the \$400 filing fee in full nor sufficiently completes and  
22 files the attached Motion to Proceed IFP, together with a certified copy of his trust  
23 account statement within 45 days, this action will remain dismissed without prejudice  
24 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a), and without further Order of the Court.

25 Dated: January 17, 2017

26   
27 Hon. Janis L. Sammartino  
28 United States District Judge