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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 SEDRIC EUGENE JOHNSON,  
12 CDCR #AZ-2648

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 JOHN DOE, SERGEANT JOHN DOE;  
16 LOPEZ; GARCIA,

17 Defendants.  
18  
19

Case No.: 3:17-cv-00889-LAB-JLB

**ORDER DENYING MOTION TO  
PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS  
AND DISMISSING ACTION  
WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

20 Sedric Eugene Johnson (“Plaintiff”), a state inmate currently housed at the Kern  
21 Valley State Prison located in Delano, California, and proceeding pro se, has filed a civil  
22 rights complaint (“Compl.”) pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Doc. No. 1). Plaintiff has not  
23 prepaid the civil filing fee required by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a); instead, he has filed a Motion  
24 to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (“IFP”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) (Doc. No. 2).

25 **I. Motion to Proceed IFP**

26 All parties instituting any civil action, suit or proceeding in a district court of the  
27 United States, except an application for writ of habeas corpus, must pay a filing fee of  
28 \$400. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a plaintiff’s failure to

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

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

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

1 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint.” 28 U.S.C.  
2 § 1915(a)(2) (emphasis added).

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

7 **II. Conclusion and Order**

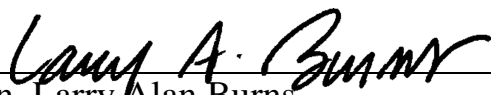
8 For these reasons, IT IS ORDERED that:

9 (1) Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed IFP (Doc. No. 2) is DENIED and the action is  
10 DISMISSED without prejudice for failure to prepay the \$400 filing fee required by 28  
11 U.S.C. § 1914(a).

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

17 (3) The Clerk of the Court is DIRECTED to provide Plaintiff with a Court-  
18 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  
20 files the attached Motion to Proceed IFP, together with a certified copy of his trust  
21 account statement within 45 days, this action will remain dismissed without prejudice  
22 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a), and without further Order of the Court.

23 Dated: July 12, 2017

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26 Hon. Larry Alan Burns  
27 United States District Judge  
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