

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT**

Freddie J.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Kilolo Kijakazi, Commissioner of Social
Security,

Defendant.

Civil No. 3:23-cv-01495-MPS

November 14, 2023

ORDER RE: MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

Plaintiff, Freddie J.,¹ has moved for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* – in other words, he has asked the Court for permission to start a civil case without paying the customary filing fee. A federal law permits him to do so if, among other things, he submits an affidavit listing his assets and showing that he is unable to pay the fee. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1).

To qualify for *in forma pauperis* status, Plaintiff does not have to demonstrate absolute destitution, *see Potnick v. E. State Hosp.*, 701 F.2d 243, 244 (2d Cir. 1983) (per curiam), but he does need to show that “paying such fees would constitute a serious hardship.” *Fiebelkorn v. U.S.*, 77 Fed. Cl. 59, 62 (2007). Put differently, a “sufficient” *in forma pauperis* application is one that demonstrates that Plaintiff “cannot because of his poverty pay or give security for the costs and still be able to provide himself and his dependents with the necessities of life.” *Adkins v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co.*, 335 U.S. 331, 339 (1948).

¹ Pursuant to D. Conn. Standing Order CTAO-21-01, Plaintiff will be identified solely by first name and last initial throughout this order.

In this case, Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* was accompanied by a financial affidavit that failed to specify whether Plaintiff is employed, self-employed, or unemployed. (ECF No. 2, at 3.) Furthermore, the affidavit stated that Plaintiff has no income or assets. (*Id.*, at 3-4.) Plaintiff's financial affidavit has not provided the Court with any information as to how he supports himself.

This Court and others have held that these sorts of affidavits must be incomplete and, by extension, do not support *in forma pauperis* status. *See, e.g., Jessie C.*, No. 22-cv-00609-SRU, 2022 WL 2068993 (D. Conn. May 2, 2022) (holding a financial affidavit to be insufficient because it listed no assets, bank accounts, income, or government benefits other than Husky D and state health insurance); *Pierre v. City of Rochester*, No. 16-cv-6428 CJS, 2018 WL 10072449, at *1 (W.D.N.Y. Dec. 13, 2018) (denying leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* when the plaintiff claimed that he had no assets and received no support from any other source because he “offer[ed] no explanation for how he survives day-to-day or how his monthly expenses are paid”).

In *Pierre*, the court added that if the plaintiff indeed had no income of his own, but was relying on another person for support, he was obliged to provide a statement of that person's resources because “a court may consider the resources that the applicant has or can get from those who ordinarily provide the applicant with the necessities of life, such as from a spouse, parent, adult sibling or next friend.” *Id.*, at *1 (quoting *Fridman v. City of N.Y.*, 195 F. Supp. 2d 534, 537 (S.D.N.Y. 2002)).

The Court therefore orders that, by December 1, 2023, Plaintiff must either (a) pay the filing fee or (b) submit a revised financial affidavit that fully and candidly explains how he supports himself. Should he choose to file a revised financial affidavit, he shall enter an answer, specific dollar amount, or zero, as applicable, on each of the form's blanks. Plaintiff is respectfully advised

that, if he neither pays the filing fee nor obtains leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, his case may be dismissed.

/s/ Maria E. Garcia

Hon. Maria E. Garcia
United States Magistrate Judge