

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

RICHARD LEE QUICK,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO. 3:10-cv-133-J-32TEM

MICHAEL J. ASTRUE,
Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

ORDER

This case is before the Court sua sponte. The Court has noted Plaintiff is proceeding in this action as a *pro se* litigant. Thus, the Court will take the opportunity to inform Plaintiff of some, **but not all**, of the procedural rules with which he must comply. The Court reminds Plaintiff of these obligations because a *pro se* litigant is subject to the same law and rules of court as a litigant who is represented by counsel, including the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("Fed. R. Civ. P."), and the Local Rules of the Middle District of Florida. *Moon v. Newsome*, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989).

All filings with the Court must be made in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida. The Local Rules are available for review on the public website for the Middle District Court of Florida at www.flmd.uscourts.gov and from the Clerk's Office. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are available for review in the law libraries of the state and federal courthouses and at the website www.uscourts.gov/rules.

All documents filed with the Court must be in the form of a pleading, see Fed. R. Civ. P. 7(a), or of a motion, see Fed. R. Civ. P. 7(b). Each pleading, motion, notice, or other paper shall be presented in a separate document. All requests for relief from, or action by, the court must be in the form of a motion. If Plaintiff seeks any relief from, or action by, the Court, or seeks the entry of an order of any kind, Plaintiff must file a proper motion requesting such, which motion must meet the requirements of all applicable rules, including the Local Rules and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Among other things, all motions must be accompanied by a legal memorandum with citation of authorities in support of the relief requested, see Local Rule 3.01(a), which the combined document of the motion and memorandum cannot exceed 25 pages in length.

Further, Plaintiff is advised that prior to filing most motions, Local Rule 3.01(g) requires Plaintiff to confer with opposing counsel. The Court would note that Local Rule 3.01 sets forth several other important requirements and rules governing motions filed with the Court, and that failure to comply with such requirements and rules can form the basis for denial of a motion.

Plaintiff must timely respond to the motions filed by other parties in this case, for if he does not timely respond to such a motion, the Court may assume that Plaintiff does not oppose that motion and any relief requested therein.¹ If a party has missed a filing deadline, the party must file motion seeking leave of Court to file the document out of time. Local Rule 3.01(b) further requires that any brief or legal memorandum in opposition to a

¹Motions that Plaintiff must respond to include, but are not limited to, Motions to Dismiss under Fed.R.Civ.P. 12(b) and Motions for Summary Judgment under Fed.R.Civ.P. 56.

motion must be filed within 10 days after Plaintiff is served with that motion by her opponent and may not exceed 20 pages, including all attachments.

Plaintiff shall not correspond with the Court or any Judge or Magistrate Judge of the Court in letter form. In keeping with their sworn duty to maintain complete impartiality in the exercise of their judicial duties, the Judges of this Court will only deliver their decisions and opinions in response to those documents filed with the Clerk's Office in accordance with the governing rules of procedure. Any such correspondence sent to judicial officers will not be responded to, will be stricken from the case file, and will be returned to Plaintiff.

All documents filed with the Court must include a caption (the same as is set forth on Plaintiff's Complaint); a brief title which describes the nature of the document; Plaintiff's name and signature; and a Certificate of Service. These last two items are explained below.

All pleadings, motion, or other papers filed with the Court by Plaintiff must bear an original signature, or they will be rejected by the Court. Among other things, such signature serves as Plaintiff's certification, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 11 (b), that said document is not submitted for any improper purpose; that the claims or defenses presented therein are warranted by existing law; and that there exists reasonable factual support for allegations or assertions made therein. Plaintiff is advised to review and become familiar with Fed. R. Civ. P. 11, as the failure to comply with its provisions can result in the imposition of sanctions, including monetary fines or dismissal of Plaintiff's case.

All pleadings, motions, or other papers filed with the Court by Plaintiff must also include a signed Certificate of Service. Such is Plaintiff's certification that he has complied

with the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 5 by serving on every other party to the action (or its attorney) a copy of the particular pleading, motion, or other paper filed with the Court. At a minimum, a Certificate of Service must state the date upon which a copy of the particular document was served on the other parties to the action (or their attorneys) and the means by which such service was made (e.g., U.S. Mail; Federal Express; hand delivery). Plaintiff is further reminded, that in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4, he is responsible for obtaining and completing a summons, that must be presented to the Clerk of Court for signature and seal after it is properly completed, and that must be served with the complaint upon each named defendant. Service of process of the summons and complaint must be completed within 120 days after the complaint is filed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).

Lastly, Plaintiff is reminded that, although he is now proceeding *pro se*, he is not relieved of all obligations that rest upon an attorney. There are still many requirements with which Plaintiff must still comply, including those imposed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court. Plaintiff is warned that the failure to comply with these requirements and obligations can have significant consequences. Plaintiff's attention is directed to Local Rule 3.05, which provides information concerning case management including the conduct of a case management conference.

While the Court has set forth some of the more prominent procedural obligations and requirements of litigants in this Court, this Order does not purport to set forth all of those requirements and should not be relied upon as limiting Plaintiff's duties and obligations in litigating this case.

Upon consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

1. Plaintiff shall review and comply with the provisions of this Order, as well as the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Local Rules of the Middle District, and any applicable statutes and regulations.
2. The Clerk shall mail Plaintiff a copy of the Step by Step Guide for the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida.

DONE AND ORDERED at Jacksonville, Florida this 14th day of April, 2010.



THOMAS E. MORRIS
United States Magistrate Judge

Copies to *pro se* plaintiff
and counsel of record, if any