

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
MACON DIVISION**

GREGORY GILLILAN,

Plaintiff

vs.

2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Prison Guard ANGELITA  
WASHINGTON,

Defendant

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NO. 5:09-CV-279 (HL)

**ORDER**

Plaintiff **GREGORY GILLILAN**, an inmate at Georgia State Prison in Reidsville, Georgia, has filed a *pro se* civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Parties instituting any non-habeas civil actions are required to pay a filing fee of \$350.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). Because plaintiff has submitted a certificate of indigence, the Court assumes that he wishes to proceed *in forma pauperis* in this action.

Under the “three strikes” provision of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), a prisoner is generally precluded from proceeding *in forma pauperis* if at least three prior lawsuits or appeals by the prisoner were dismissed as frivolous, malicious or failing to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. 28 U.S.C. §1915(g). Dismissal without prejudice for failure to exhaust administrative remedies and dismissal for abuse of judicial process are also properly counted as strikes. *See Rivera v. Allin*, 144 F.3d 719 (11th Cir. 1998). Section 1915(g) provides an exception to the three strikes rule, under which an inmate may proceed *in forma pauperis* if he alleges he is in “imminent danger of serious physical injury.” The prisoner must allege a present imminent danger, as opposed to a past danger, to proceed under section 1915(g)’s imminent danger exception. *Medberry v. Butler*, 185 F.3d 1189, 1193 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999).

The Eleventh Circuit has upheld the constitutionality of section 1915(g) in concluding that section 1915(g) does not violate an inmate’s right of access to the courts, the doctrine of separation

of powers, an inmate's right to due process of law, or an inmate's right to equal protection. *Rivera*, 144 F.3d at 721-27.

A review of court records reveals plaintiff has a prolific filing history.<sup>1</sup> As plaintiff has more than three strikes, he cannot proceed *in forma pauperis* in the instant case unless he can show that he qualifies for the "imminent danger of serious physical injury" exception of section 1915(g). Plaintiff's claim that his "life is at risk" because the defendant has violated unspecified "medical orders" is vague and conclusory. *Skillern v. Paul*, 2006 U.S. App. LEXIS 24841 at \*4 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. October 4, 2006)(explaining that "vague statements do not satisfy the dictates of § 1915(g)").

Because plaintiff has more than three prior strikes and is not under imminent danger of serious injury, his request to proceed *in forma pauperis* is **DENIED** and the instant action is **DISMISSED** without prejudice. If plaintiff wishes to bring a new civil rights action, he may do so by submitting new complaint forms and the entire \$350.00 filing fee at the time of filing the complaint. As the Eleventh Circuit stated in *Dupree v. Palmer*, 284 F.3d 1234, 1236 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002), a prisoner cannot simply pay the filing fee after being denied *in forma pauperis* status; he must pay the filing fee at the time he initiates the suit.

**SO ORDERED**, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> At present, at least eleven (11) of plaintiff's complaints or appeals have been dismissed as frivolous pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915: *Gillilan v. Pollark*, 1:07-CV-50 (WLS) (M.D. Ga. Apr. 4, 2007); *Gillilan v. Galloway*, 1:06-CV-71 (WLS) (M.D. Ga. Mar. 5, 2007); *Gillilan v. Scarborough*, 1:05-CV-172 (WLS) (M.D. Ga. Feb. 2, 2007); *Gillilan v. Harrison*, 1:06-CV-176 (WLS) (M.D. Ga. Jan. 31, 2007); *Gillilan v. Bell*, 1:07-CV-3 (WLS) (M.D. Ga. Jan. 11, 2007); *Gillilan v. Thomas*, 1:06-CV-122 (DHB) (S.D. Ga. Jan. 10, 2007); *Gillilan v. Johnson*, 1:06-CV-177 (WLS) (M.D. Ga. Jan. 8, 2007)( Additionally, a later appeal was dismissed as frivolous in this case on April 25, 2007); *Gillilan v. Cannon*, 1:06-CV-114 (WLS) (M.D. Ga. Aug. 8, 2006); *Gillian v. Hilton*, 1:05-CV-133 (WLS) (M.D. Ga. Aug. 18, 2006) (Additionally, a later appeal was dismissed in this case on May 8, 2007).

s/ *Hugh Lawson*  
HUGH LAWSON  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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