

## United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

<b>Name of Assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge</b>	Samuel Der-Yeghiayan	<b>Sitting Judge if Other than Assigned Judge</b>	
<b>CASE NUMBER</b>	11 C 737	<b>DATE</b>	3/3/2011
<b>CASE TITLE</b>	Johnny English (K-55015) vs. Gerardo Acevedo		

### DOCKET ENTRY TEXT

For the reasons stated below, Petitioner's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis [3] is denied. Petitioner is given until March 28, 2011 to either pay the filing fee or file an accurately and properly completed in forma pauperis application form for proceeding in the Northern District of Illinois. Petitioner is warned that if he fails to pay the filing fee or file an accurately and properly completed in forma pauperis application form for proceeding in the Northern District of Illinois by March 28, 2011, this case will be dismissed. Petitioner's motion for appointment of counsel [4] is denied.

■ [ For further details see text below.]

Docketing to mail notices.

### STATEMENT

This matter is before the court on Plaintiff Johnny English's (English) motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and motion for appointment of counsel. English has filed an *in forma pauperis* application form, but has not filed an *in forma pauperis* application form for proceeding in the Northern District of Illinois and has not provided sufficient information concerning his financial status. For example, on his *in forma pauperis* form, English failed to indicate his prior employment. English also failed to sign the declaration line at the end of the form that requires him to swear that the information in the form is true and correct. Thus, English has not shown that the instant motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* should be granted, and we deny the instant motion. English is given until March 28, 2011 to either pay the filing fee or file an accurately and properly completed *in forma pauperis* application form for proceeding in the Northern District of Illinois. English is warned that if he fails to pay the filing fee or file an accurately and properly completed *in forma pauperis* application form for proceeding in the Northern District of Illinois by March 28, 2011, this case will be dismissed.

English also seeks an appointment of counsel. An indigent civil litigant does not have a right to appointed counsel. *Forbes v. Edgar*, 112 F.3d 262, 264 (7th Cir. 1997). However, a court, in its discretion,

## STATEMENT

can appoint counsel for indigents in a civil action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). In determining whether to appoint counsel for a civil litigant, a court must consider the following factors: “(1) has the indigent plaintiff made a reasonable attempt to obtain counsel or been effectively precluded from doing so; and if so, (2) given the difficulty of the case, does the plaintiff appear competent to litigate it himself?” *Pruitt v. Mote*, 503 F.3d 647, 654, 661 (7th Cir. 2007)(stating that there is no presumption in favor of granting or denying a motion for appointment of counsel and that each motion is to be considered individually). In considering the competency factor, the court must determine “whether the difficulty of the case-factually and legally-exceeds the particular plaintiff’s capacity as a layperson to coherently present it to the judge or jury himself.” *Id.* at 655 (stating that “[t]he question is not whether a lawyer would present the case more effectively than the pro se plaintiff; ‘if that were the test, district judges would be required to request counsel for every indigent litigant’”)(quoting *Johnson v. Doughty*, 433 F.3d 1001, 1006 (7th Cir. 2006)). In assessing competency, the court must consider “whether the plaintiff appears competent to litigate his own claims, given their degree of difficulty, and this includes the tasks that normally attend litigation: evidence gathering, preparing and responding to motions and other court filings, and trial.” *Id.* (emphasis omitted). In ruling on a motion for appointment of counsel, the court should take into consideration “the plaintiff’s literacy, communication skills, educational level, and litigation experience” and evaluate “evidence in the record bearing on the plaintiff’s intellectual capacity and psychological history,” including “any information submitted in support of the request for counsel, as well as the pleadings, communications from, and any contact with the plaintiff.” *Id.* (stating that “in some cases-perhaps many cases-the record may be sparse” and that “[t]he inquiry into the plaintiff’s capacity to handle his own case is a practical one, made in light of whatever relevant evidence is available on the question”).

In the instant action, English has not shown that this case is overly complex or difficult, factually or legally. We have considered the entire record in this case at this juncture, as it reflects on English’s ability to coherently present his case as a layperson and his ability to perform the tasks that normally attend litigation. We conclude that, based upon the record before us, English is competent to present his case at this juncture without the assistance of appointed counsel. Therefore, we find that an appointment of counsel is not warranted at this juncture, and we deny the motion for appointment of counsel.