UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEVEN HESSE,

Plaintiff,

V.

Case No. 09-cv-496-JPG

MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on plaintiff Steven Hesse's motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Doc. 3). A federal court may permit an indigent party to proceed without pre-payment of fees. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1). Nevertheless, a court can deny a qualified plaintiff leave to file *in forma pauperis* or can dismiss a case if the action is clearly frivolous or malicious. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i). The test for determining if an action is frivolous or without merit is whether the plaintiff can make a rational argument on the law or facts in support of the claim. *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); *Corgain v. Miller*, 708 F.2d 1241, 1247 (7th Cir. 1983). When assessing a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a district court should inquire into the merits of the plaintiff's claims, and if the court finds them to be frivolous, it should deny leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. *Lucien v. Roegner*, 682 F.2d 625, 626 (7th Cir. 1982).

The Court is satisfied from Hesse's affidavit that he is indigent. Furthermore, the Court does not find anything in the file to indicate that this action is frivolous or malicious. Therefore, the Court **GRANTS** the motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* without prepayment of fees and costs (Doc. 3). The Court notes, however, that should it become apparent that the action is

frivolous or malicious at any time in the future, it may dismiss the case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §

1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

If the plaintiff wishes the United States Marshal Service to serve process in this case, the

Court **DIRECTS** the plaintiff to provide to the United States Marshal Service the summons

issued in this case, the appropriately completed USM-285 forms and sufficient copies of the

complaint for service.

The Court further DIRECTS the United States Marshal, upon receipt of the

aforementioned documents from the plaintiff and pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure

4(c)(3), to serve a copy of the summons, complaint and this order upon the defendant

Commissioner of Social Security, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois

and the Attorney General of the United States, Washington, D.C., in the manner specified by

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(i)(1) & (2), as directed by the plaintiff. Costs of service shall

be borne by the United States.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: July 7, 2009

s/ J. Phil Gilbert

J. PHIL GILBERT

DISTRICT JUDGE

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