

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
 SOUTH BEND DIVISION

STEPHEN EDWARD TAGHON, JR.,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Cause No. 3:17-CV-508 JD
	)	
JULIE LAWSON, <i>et al.</i> ,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

OPINION AND ORDER

Stephen Edward Taghon, Jr., a prisoner without a lawyer, alleges that the defendants are impeding his ability to post bail. “A document filed *pro se* is to be liberally construed, and a *pro se* complaint, however inartfully pleaded, must be held to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.” *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007) (quotation marks and citations omitted). Nevertheless, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the court must review the merits of a prisoner complaint and dismiss it if the action is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.

Taghon alleges that he is being held in the St. Joseph County Jail on a \$2,000 bond. He alleges that he could post bond if he could cash his \$5,259.00 federal tax refund check. He alleges that the only way he can cash the check is by giving his mother power of attorney. He alleges that the defendants are preventing him from executing a power of attorney because they will not notarize it unless he pre-pays the \$3.00 notary fee. He alleges that he is indigent and does not have \$3.00 to pay the fee. The Fourteenth Amendment prohibits a State from denying a person liberty without due process of law. In *Vallone v. Lee*, 7 F.3d 196 (11th Cir. 1993), the court affirmed a

