

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
MISSOULA DIVISION

TRACEY R. GODFREY,

Plaintiff,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

CV 16-00108-M-DLC-JCL

ORDER

Plaintiff Tracey Godfrey included a request to proceed in forma pauperis in his Complaint. (Doc. 1.) He subsequently filed a prison account statement which is sufficient to make the showing required by 28 U.S.C. §1915(a). (Doc. 1.) The request to proceed in forma pauperis will be granted.

Because he is incarcerated, Mr. Godfrey must pay the statutory filing fee of \$350.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). Mr. Godfrey submitted an account statement showing an inability to pay that fee; therefore, the initial partial filing fee is waived, and he may proceed with the case. *See Bruce v. Samuels*, 136 S.Ct 627, 629 (2016) (“the initial partial filing fee may not be exacted if the prisoner has no means to pay it, § 1915(b)(4)”). Mr. Godfrey will be required to pay the fee in installments and make monthly payments of 20% of the preceding month’s income

credited to his prison trust account. The percentage is set by statute and cannot be altered. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). Mr. Godfrey must make these monthly payments simultaneously with the payments required in any other cases he has filed. *Id.* By separate order, the Court will direct the facility where Mr. Godfrey is held to forward payments from Mr. Godfrey's account to the Clerk of Court each time the account balance exceeds \$10.00, until the filing fee is paid in full. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2).

Pursuant to the federal statutes governing proceedings in forma pauperis and cases filed by prisoners, federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of a case to assess the merits of the claims. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2); 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). Accordingly, the Court must identify cognizable claims, or dismiss the complaint, or any portion of the complaint, if the complaint is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2); 28 U.S.C. § 1915A. Mr. Godfrey must await the Court's preliminary screening Order prior to taking further action in this matter.

Based upon the foregoing, the Court issues the following:

ORDER

1. Mr. Godfrey's Motion to Proceed in Forma Pauperis (Doc. 1) is

