

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

ROBERT MATTHEWS	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	
v.	:	No. 07-1192
	:	
PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT, ET AL.	:	
	:	

MEMORANDUM OPINION

Savage, J.

March 28, 2007

Plaintiff, a prisoner at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, seeks to bring a civil action *in forma pauperis*, without prepayment of fees or security, asserting claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.¹ The Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321 (April 26, 1996) (the “Act”), which amends 28 U.S.C. § 1915, establishes certain financial requirements for prisoners bringing a civil action or filing an appeal *in forma pauperis*.

Under the Act, a prisoner bringing a civil action *in forma pauperis* must pay the full amount of the \$350 filing fee. 28 U.S.C.A. § 1915(b)(1). The prisoner must submit a certified copy of his inmate trust fund account statement for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of his complaint so the Court can determine how the \$350 filing fee will be paid. 28 U.S.C.A. § 1915(a)(2). The prisoner must obtain this statement from the appropriate official of each prison at which he was or is confined. *Id.* The Court must then “assess [the prisoner’s financial status] and, when funds exist, collect, as a partial payment of any court fees required by law, an initial partial filing fee of 20 percent of the greater of (a) the average monthly deposits to the prisoner’s account; or (b) the

¹ Suits brought *in forma pauperis* are governed by 28 U.S.C. § 1915.

average monthly balance in the prisoner's account for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint”

When he brought this action, the plaintiff may not have known that he must pay the filing fee, and that even if the full filing fee, or any part of it, has been paid, the Court must dismiss the case if it finds that the action is: (1) frivolous or malicious; (2) fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or, (3) seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C.A. § 1915(e)(2)(B). If the Court dismisses the case for any of these reasons, the prisoner will not get his filing fee back.

We shall give the plaintiff twenty (20) days from the date of this Order to decide whether he wants to proceed with this case. If the plaintiff decides to proceed with the case, he must file a certified copy of his inmate trust fund account statement for the entire six-month period preceding March 26, 2007, as required by 28 U.S.C. §1915. Upon receipt of the account statement, the Court will assess the appropriate deductions to be made from the inmate's account in payment of the filing fee.

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ORDER

AND NOW, this 28th day of March, 2007, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The petition to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Document No. 1) is **DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**;
2. If plaintiff files with the Clerk within twenty (20) days from the date of this Order a certified copy of his inmate trust fund account statement for the six-month period preceding his filing of his complaint and obligates himself to pay the \$350.00 filing fee, this action will be reinstated;
3. The Clerk shall deliver to the petitioner with a copy of this Order the Notice to Prisoners Filing a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 Civil Rights Complaint in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; and,
4. The Clerk of Court shall **CLOSE** this action statistically.

s/ Timothy J. Savage
TIMOTHY J. SAVAGE, J.