

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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SHERI ANN KWASNIEWSKI,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 17-cv-1445-pp

NANCY BERRYHILL,  
Acting Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

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**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED  
WITHOUT PREPAYMENT OF THE FILING FEE (DKT. NO. 3)**

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On October 23, 2017, the plaintiff filed a complaint seeking judicial review of a partially favorable decision under the Social Security Act. Dkt. No. 1. The plaintiff also filed a motion for leave to proceed without prepayment of the filing fee, or *in forma pauperis*. Dkt. No. 3.

In order to allow a plaintiff to proceed without paying the filing fee, the court must first decide whether the plaintiff has the ability to pay the filing fee, and if not, must determine whether the lawsuit is frivolous. 28 U.S.C. §§1915(a) and (e)(2)(B)(i).

Based on the facts presented in the affidavit, the court concludes that the plaintiff does not have the ability to pay the filing fee. The plaintiff indicates that her monthly expenses account for all of her monthly wages or salary. Dkt. No. 3 at 2-3. While the plaintiff noted that she receives Social Security Insurance payments, she owns no car or home, and states that she has only

\$44.45 in cash or a savings/checking account. Id. The court concludes from that information that the plaintiff has demonstrated that she cannot pay the \$350 filing fee and \$50 administrative fee.

The next step is to determine whether the case is frivolous. A case is frivolous if there is no arguable basis for relief either in law or in fact. Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 31 (1992) (quoting Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); Casteel v. Pieschek, 3 F.3d 1050, 1056 (7th Cir. 1993)). A person may obtain district court review of a final decision of the Commissioner of Social Security. 42 U.S.C. §405(g). The district court must uphold the Commissioner's final decision as long as the Commissioner used the correct legal standards and the decision is supported by substantial evidence. See Roddy v. Astrue, 705 F.3d 631, 636 (7th Cir. 2013).

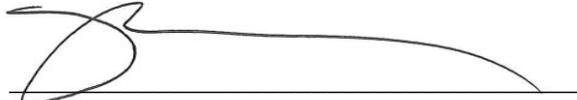
The plaintiff is disputing the onset date of her disability, and she believes that the commissioner's unfavorable conclusions and findings of fact as to the onset of disability are not supported by substantial evidence, and/or are contrary to law and regulations. Dkt. No. 1 at 2-3. At this early stage in the case, the court concludes that there may be a basis in law or fact for the plaintiff's appeal of the Commissioner's decision, and that the appeal may have

merit, as defined by 28 U.S.C. §1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

The court **GRANTS** the plaintiff's motion for leave to appeal *in forma pauperis* (Dkt. No. 3).

Dated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 8th day of November, 2017.

**BY THE COURT:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Pepper', written over a horizontal line.

**HON. PAMELA PEPPER**  
**United States District Judge**