

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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STEPHEN E. ALEXANDER,

Plaintiff,

v.

TONI MELI, et al.

Defendants.

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ORDER

Case No. 17-cv-585-jdp

Plaintiff has submitted a motion for an order directing prison officials to pay the remainder of the filing fees from plaintiff's release account. Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, an inmate who files a lawsuit in federal court under the *in forma pauperis* statute must pay the \$350 filing fee, first by making an initial partial payment and then by sending the remainder of the fee to the court in installments of 20% of the preceding month's income, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). On July 28, 2017, this court entered an order assessing plaintiff an initial partial payment of the filing fee for this case, which plaintiff has paid.

The language of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1) requires prison officials to use a prisoner's release account to satisfy an initial partial payment if no other funds are available. *Carter v. Bennett*, 399 F. Supp. 2d 936, 936-37 (W.D. Wis. 2005). However, with the exception of such initial partial payments, this court does not have the authority to tell state officials whether, and to what extent, a prisoner should be able to withdraw money from a release account. I will deny this motion.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that plaintiff Stephen E. Alexander's motion for an order directing prison officials to pay the remainder of the filing fee in this case from plaintiff's release account is DENIED.

Entered this 29th day of August, 2017.

BY THE COURT:

/s/  
PETER OPPENEER  
Magistrate Judge