

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO

Klairessa May v. Lance Stevenson, Dennis M. Charney, Dustin Bourne, Lendon Moss, County of Minidoka, Idaho

May · No. 4:26-cv-00042-BLW · Decided March 12, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Idaho grants Klairessa May’s applications to proceed in forma pauperis. The court finds that her income and financial circumstances prevent her from paying the filing fees and notes that it will separately review her conditionally filed complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Idaho
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Idaho
DECIDED	March 12, 2026
DOCKET	4:26-cv-00042-BLW
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed applications to proceed in forma pauperis in a newly filed civil action. The complaint was conditionally filed, and the court considered only whether Plaintiff qualified to proceed without prepaying filing fees; complaint screening was reserved for a separate order.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court evaluates an in forma pauperis application based on the applicant's financial resources, including income, dependents, expenses, and applicable poverty guidelines.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court memorandum decision and order with no reporter citation.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- pleadings

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil procedure
- Federal courts

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether May qualified to proceed in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 based on her financial circumstances.

HOLDINGS

1. May qualified to proceed without prepaying filing fees because her income, even assuming receipt of the unemployment benefits for which she applied, was substantially below the applicable poverty guideline for a family of three, and her expenses exceeded her current monthly income.
2. The court must first determine eligibility for in forma pauperis status based on financial resources and then independently screen the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court first “grants or denies in forma pauperis status based on the plaintiff’s financial resources alone and then independently determines whether to dismiss the complaint.””

“The Court therefore concludes that May cannot afford to pay any filing fees for this action at this time and GRANTS her applications for leave to file without paying those fees.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

May supported two minor children. She reported earning \$26,525.01 from employment between May 20 and December 30, 2025, and stated that she was no longer employed when she submitted her second application. Her current income was approximately \$1,000 per month in child support, with a pending unemployment-benefits application that could provide an additional \$4,850. Her monthly expenses were approximately \$3,377, exceeding her monthly income.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

May submitted applications to proceed without prepayment of fees at Docket Entries 1 and 4, along with a conditionally filed complaint at Docket Entry 2. The district court evaluated her financial resources, granted both applications, and stated that a separate order would address screening of the complaint.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Barren v. Harrington, 152 F.3d 1193 (9th Cir. 1998)
- Franklin v. Murphy, 745 F.3d 1221, 1226 n.5 (9th Cir. 1984)
- United States v. McQuade, 647 F.2d 938, 940 (9th Cir. 1981)
- Clark v. Commissioner of Social Security, 2022 WL 1271005, at *1 (E.D. Cal. Apr. 28, 2022)
- Adkins v. E.I. du Pont De Nemours & Co., 335 U.S. 331, 339 (1948)

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