

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

Eric Morris v. A. DeGroot, Chris Stevens, Emily Davidson, and C.
O'Donnell

Morris · No. 26-cv-0091-bhl · Decided February 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin grants Eric Morris leave to proceed in forma pauperis in his 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action. The court finds that his complaint fails to state a constitutional claim based solely on an alleged violation of a state prison recreation policy, but permits him to file an amended complaint by March 30, 2026. The order also directs collection of the remaining filing fee balance from Morris’s prison trust account.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Brett H. Ludwig
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
DECIDED	February 27, 2026
DOCKET	26-cv-0091-bhl
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Prisoner civil-rights screening order on a pro se complaint filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, together with a motion to proceed in forma pauperis.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b), the court screens a prisoner complaint and dismisses claims that are frivolous or malicious, fail to state a claim, or seek monetary relief from an immune defendant. Applying Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) and the plausibility standard, the court accepts well-pleaded factual allegations as true but disregards legal conclusions and conclusory assertions.
PARTIES	Eric Morris v. A. DeGroot, Chris Stevens, Emily Davidson, C. O'Donnell

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether Morris's complaint stated a plausible constitutional claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 based on an alleged violation of a prison recreation policy.

2. Whether Morris should be granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.
3. Whether Morris should be permitted to amend the deficient complaint before dismissal.

HOLDINGS

1. Morris's motion for leave to proceed without prepaying the full filing fee was granted because he submitted the required certified prison trust-account statement and paid the assessed initial partial filing fee.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Morris was incarcerated at Green Bay Correctional Institution and proceeded pro se. He alleged that on November 26, 2025, he submitted an inmate complaint concerning cancellation of recreation in violation of Wisconsin DOC policy 309.36, and that his complaint and subsequent appeal were affirmed. He did not allege who cancelled the recreation, how long the cancellation lasted, why it occurred, or how it affected him.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Morris filed a § 1983 complaint alleging that defendants violated his civil rights by cancelling recreation in violation of a Wisconsin Department of Corrections policy. The court granted leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee, screened the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, found that it failed to state a constitutional claim, and allowed Morris until March 30, 2026, to file an amended complaint.