

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MISSOURI, SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION

Christian P. Edwards v. SECC Charleston MO Prison, et al.

Edwards · No. 1:26-cv-00006-MTS · Decided February 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri grants Christian P. Edwards’s application to proceed without prepaying fees or costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. The Court assesses an initial partial filing fee of \$10.77, due March 27, 2026, and denies without prejudice the motion to appoint counsel.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Southeastern Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, Southeastern Division
DECIDED	February 10, 2026
DOCKET	1:26-cv-00006-MTS
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered the plaintiff's application to proceed without prepaying fees or costs and his motion for appointment of counsel at the outset of a prisoner civil-rights action.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the application, certified inmate account statement, complaint, and motion for appointed counsel; appointment of counsel was assessed under the relevant factors applicable to indigent civil litigants.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court memorandum and order; precedential status not indicated

TOPICS

- prisoners rights
- civil rights
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- prisoner civil rights
- civil procedure
- in forma pauperis proceedings

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff should be permitted to proceed without prepaying the filing fee and required to pay an initial partial filing fee under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).
2. Whether the court should appoint counsel for Plaintiff, an indigent prisoner civil litigant, at that stage of the proceedings.

HOLDINGS

1. The court granted Plaintiff's application to proceed without prepaying fees or costs and assessed an initial partial filing fee of \$10.77.
2. The court denied Plaintiff's motion to appoint counsel without prejudice because he failed to establish that appointment was appropriate at that stage of the case.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“pay filing fees in full, with the only issue being whether the inmate pays the entire filing fee at the initiation of the proceeding or in installments over a period of time” (716)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff was an incarcerated litigant who submitted an application to proceed without prepaying fees or costs and a certified inmate account statement. The court determined that he owed an initial partial filing fee of \$10.77. Plaintiff also requested appointment of counsel, but the court concluded that the circumstances did not warrant appointment at that stage.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Christian P. Edwards filed a prisoner civil-rights action and sought leave to proceed without prepaying fees or costs, as well as appointed counsel. Based on the application and certified inmate account statement, the court granted leave to proceed and assessed an initial partial filing fee. The court denied the motion for appointed counsel without prejudice.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Ashley v. Dilworth, 147 F.3d 715, 716 (8th Cir. 1998) (per curiam)
- Stevens v. Redwing, 146 F.3d 538, 546 (8th Cir. 1998)
- Carter v. Broward Cnty. Sheriff's Dep't Med. Dep't, 558 F. App'x 919, 923 (11th Cir. 2014) (per curiam)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION CHRISTIAN P. EDWARDS,)) Plaintiff,)) v) No. 1:26-cv-

00006-MTS) SECC CHARLESTON MO PRISON, et al.,)) Defendants.) MEMORANDUM AND ORDER This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff Christian P. Edwards's Application to Proceed in District Court without Prepaying Fees or Costs.

Doc. [2]. Upon review of it and Plaintiff's Certified inmate account statement, the Court will grant the Motion and assess an initial partial filing fee of ten dollars and seventy-seven cents (\$10.77). See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1); *Ashley v. Dilworth*, 147 F.3d 715, 716 (8th Cir. 1998) (per curiam) (explaining that prisoner-litigants must "pay filing fees in full, with the only issue being whether the inmate pays the entire filing fee at the initiation of the proceeding or in installments over a period of time").

Plaintiff must pay his initial partial filing fee to the Court no later than Friday, March 27, 2026. The failure to do so will result in the dismissal of this action without further notice. Plaintiff also asks that the Court appoint him an attorney in this matter. Upon review of Plaintiff's Motion, the Complaint, and on consideration of the proper factors, the Court concludes that Plaintiff has failed to establish that appointed counsel is appropriate at this stage in this case.

See *Stevens v. Redwing*, 146 F.3d 538, 546 (8th Cir. 1998) (discussing the "relevant factors" a district court should consider when "determining whether to appoint counsel for an indigent civil litigant"); see also *Carter v. Broward Cnty. Sheriff's Dep t Med. Dep t*, 558 F. App'x 919, 923 (11th Cir. 2014) (per curiam) (noting that a district court should only appoint counsel to an indigent plaintiff "in exceptional circumstances").

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's Application to Proceed in District Court without Prepaying Fees or Costs, Doc. [2], is GRANTED. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff must pay an initial partial filing fee of ten dollars and seventy-seven cents (\$10.77) no later than Friday, March 27, 2026. Plaintiff shall make his remittance payable to "Clerk, United States District Court," and include upon it: (1) his name; (2) his prison registration number; (3) the case number; and (4) the statement that the remittance is for an original proceeding.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion to Appoint Counsel, Doc. [4], is DENIED without prejudice. Dated this 10th day of February 2026. eC UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE