

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Jacques v. Jung

Jacques · No. 2:24-cv-0477-TLN-SCR · Decided June 27, 2025

SUMMARY

The document contains findings and recommendations in a prisoner civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The magistrate judge recommends granting defendants’ motion to dismiss based on alleged material misrepresentations in the plaintiff’s in forma pauperis application and dismissing the action with prejudice under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(A). The parties were given 21 days to file objections.

OPINION

(PC) Jacques v. Jung

PER CURIAM.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10

11 MICHAEL E. JACQUES, No. 2:24-cv-0477-TLN-SCR

12 Plaintiff,

13 v. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

14 JUNG, et al., 15 Defendants. 16 17 Petitioner is a state prisoner proceeding without an attorney in this civil rights action filed 18 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This proceeding was referred to this court pursuant to Local Rule 19 302 and 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). 20 Currently pending before the court is defendants’ motion to dismiss, or, in the alternative, 21 to revoke plaintiff’s in forma pauperis (“IFP”) status. ECF No. 22. Plaintiff has not opposed the 22 motion and the time to do so has expired. For the reasons explained in further detail below, the 23 undersigned recommends granting the motion to dismiss this case with prejudice. 24 I. Factual and Procedural History 25 On January 22, 2024, plaintiff commenced this action by filing a complaint along with an 26 application to proceed in forma pauperis.¹ ECF Nos. 1, 2. On June 25, 2024, the court screened 27 1 The filing date has been calculated using the prison mailbox rule. See *Houston v. Lack*, 487 28 U.S. 266 (1988). 1 plaintiff’s complaint and determined that plaintiff could proceed on claims based on First 2 Amendment retaliation and Eighth Amendment sexual harassment against defendant Jung as well 3 as Fourteenth Amendment right to privacy claims against defendants Jung, B. Jones, and Reid. 4 ECF No. 6. The court also granted plaintiff’s motion to proceed in

forma pauperis. ECF No. 6. 5 On February 14, 2025, defendants filed a motion to dismiss the complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(A) asserting that plaintiff's IFP application is fraudulent. ECF No. 22. 7 Defendants contend that plaintiff made false representations to the court under penalty of perjury 8 in order to avoid paying the filing fee in this action. ECF No. 22. Specifically, plaintiff indicated 9 in her in forma pauperis application that she had not received any money in the prior 12 months 10 from any source and that she had no cash or other assets to pay the filing fee.² See ECF No. 2. 11 According to defendants, "[i]n total, [p]laintiff received a combined total of \$11,885.96 during 12 the year preceding filing her IFP application." ECF No. 22 at 4 (emphasis in original). Plaintiff 13 requested a copy of her inmate trust account statement on December 7, 2023 when the balance 14 was \$2,222.08, prior to signing her in forma pauperis application on January 22, 2024. Compare 15 ECF No. 22-2 at 4 (Declaration of S. Saunders) with ECF No. 2 at 2. Additionally, plaintiff 16 signed a settlement agreement on December 20, 2023 whereby she was due to receive an 17 additional \$6,000 payment that was ultimately deposited into her prison trust account on July 5, 18 2024. ECF No. 22-2 at 3. Plaintiff's January 2024 IFP application in this case does not identify 19 this settlement agreement as an asset or a source of funds over the last twelve months. ECF No. 20 2. Since plaintiff is a frequent litigator who is familiar with the in forma pauperis statute, 21 defendants argue that these material misrepresentations were made in bad faith.³ As a result, 22 2 According to the complaint, plaintiff is a transgender inmate. Therefore, the court utilizes 23 "she" or "her" as the appropriate pronouns in this case. The court notes that defendants also utilize these same pronouns throughout their motion to dismiss. 24 3 Defendants request that the court take judicial notice of various court records from two of plaintiff's other civil rights actions. ECF No. 22-1; see *Jacques v. Hearn*, Case No. 2:23-cv-2714- 25 DJC-SCR (E.D. Cal.); *Jacques v. Dobbs, et al.*, Case No. 2:24-cv-478-DJC-EFB (E.D. Cal.). The 26 court grants defendants' request. See Fed. R. Evid. 201 (court may take judicial notice of facts that are capable of accurate determination by sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be 27 questioned); *Harris v. County of Orange*, 682 F.3d 1126, 1131-32 (9th Cir. 2012) (a court may take judicial notice of undisputed matters of public record including documents on file in federal 28 or state courts). 1 defendants request that this action be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2 1915(e)(2)(A). ECF No. 22. Alternatively, defendants submit that plaintiff's in forma pauperis 3 status should be revoked and she should be required to pay the remaining balance of the filing fee 4 in full to proceed with this case. ECF No. 22. 5 II. Legal Standards 6 The ability to proceed in federal court without prepayment of the filing fee is a privilege, 7 and not a right. See *Jefferson v. United States*, 277 F.2d 723, 725 (9th Cir. 1960); *Rodriguez v. 8 Cook*, 169 F.3d 1176, 1179-81 (9th Cir. 1999). To request to proceed without prepayment of the 9 filing fee, a litigant must submit an affidavit of indigency that is filed under penalty of perjury. 10 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1). The IFP statute provides that "[n]otwithstanding any filing fee, or any 11 portion thereof, that may have been paid, the court shall dismiss the case at any time if the court 12 determines that-the allegation of poverty is untrue...." 28 U.S.C. §

1915(e)(2)(A). 13 III. Analysis 14 In determining whether dismissal is appropriate, the court has reviewed the evidence 15 submitted by defendants to determine whether the IFP application itself is false. The court relies 16 on plaintiff's prison trust account statement for the 12 months preceding the commencement of 17 this lawsuit as evidence demonstrating the falsity of plaintiff's IFP application in this case. The 18 court finds that plaintiff made multiple omissions on her IFP application filed in this case in that 19 she failed to disclose any of the income that she had received since January 2023. Not only did 20 plaintiff not disclose the \$6,000 settlement that was deposited in her account in April 2023, but 21 she also failed to list the sources for \$2,012.76 in payments she received in September 2023. She 22 was aware that she had \$2,222.08 available in her inmate trust account in December 2023 before 23 she signed the IFP application that stated that she had not received any money over the preceding 24 twelve months.⁴ ECF No. 2. Plaintiff provides no explanation for these material omissions, even 25 4 Defendants' evidence that plaintiff requested and received a copy of her inmate statement 26 report in December 2023 distinguishes this case from *Jaques v. Hearn*, No. 2:23-cv-2714-DJC- SCR (E.D. Cal.), in which the undersigned accepted plaintiff's explanation that she was not aware 27 of her inmate trust account balance in November 2023 when she signed the IFP application at issue. See *Jaques v. Hearn*, No. 2:23-cv-2714-DJC-SCR, at ECF No. 9. In this case, plaintiff has 28 failed to offer any explanation for the omissions in her January 2024 IFP application. 1 after being granted an extension of time to respond to defendants' motion to dismiss. See ECF

2 No. 23. The record evidence in this case indicates that plaintiff had funds available to pay the 3 entire filing fee for this case in January 2024. Therefore, the court concludes that plaintiff 4 submitted a false IFP application in this case. 5 In order to determine whether this IFP application was submitted in bad faith, the court 6 reviews plaintiff's litigation history. Prior to filing the instant action, plaintiff had filed 16 other 7 civil rights cases in this district alone.⁵ In all of those cases, plaintiff requested to proceed in 8 forma pauperis by submitting a sworn affidavit of indigency. *Id.* Based on this litigation history, 9 and plaintiff's familiarity with the IFP form used in this district, there is no basis for the court to 10 find that the material omissions on the IFP application were an oversight or an error made in 11 haste. Therefore, the undersigned concludes that plaintiff's IFP omissions in this case were made 12 in bad faith. 13 Having determined that plaintiff's IFP application was demonstrably false and submitted 14 in bad faith, the PLRA requires that the court dismiss this action. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(A) 15 (indicating that the court "shall dismiss the case...."). The only question that remains is whether 16 the appropriate sanction is a dismissal with prejudice. The federal statute is silent as to this 17 question. To determine the appropriate sanction, the court first notes that "[p]erjury is among the 18 worst kinds of misconduct' and cuts at the very heart of the mission of the federal courts." 19 *Kennedy v. Huibregtse*, Case No. 13-C-004, 2015 WL 13187300, at *2 (E.D. Wis. Nov. 13, 20 2015), *aff'd* by, 831 F.3d 441 (7th Cir. 2016) (quoting *Rivera v. Drake*, 767 F.3d 685, 686 (7th 21 Cir. 2014)). Additionally, plaintiff has not provided the court with any explanation for her

22 23 5 See Jacques v. Lopez, No. 1:16-cv-1289-DAD-SAB (E.D. Cal); Jacques v. Brahney, No.
2:21- 0143-TLN-EFB (E.D. Cal.); Jacques v. Fererkins, No. 2:21-cv-0144-KJM-KJN (E.D. Cal.);
24 Jacques v. Collinsworth, No. 2:21-0145-DMC (E.D. Cal.); Jacques v. Frederick, No. 2:21-
0541- JDP (E.D. Cal.); Jacques v. Simpson, No. 21-2142-DMC (E.D. Cal.); Jacques v. Simpson,
2:21- 25 2143-KJM-EFB (E.D. Cal.); Jaques v. Quick, No. 2:22-0811-DJC-CKD (E.D. Cal.);
Jaques v. 26 Tillery, No. 2:23-0079-TLN-KJN (E.D. Cal.); Jaques v. Ellis, No. 2:23-0080-WBS-
EFB (E.D. Cal.); Jaques v. Steffenmiser, No. 2:23-0081-JDP (E.D. Cal.); Jaques v. Macomber, No.
2:23- 27 0345-AC (E.D. Cal.); Jaques v. Weiss, No. 2:23-0346-DB (E.D. Cal.); Jaques v. Hearn,
No. 2:23- 2714-DB (E.D. Cal.); Jaques v. Bautista, No. 2:24-0452-DMC (E.D. Cal.); Jaques v.
Borrego,
28 No. 2:24-0453-DB (E.D. Cal.).

1 multiple omissions on the IFP application. Quite notably, plaintiff's deadline to respond to 2
defendants' motion to dismiss occurred nine months after she was ordered to explain the 3
"discrepancies between plaintiff's IFP application and institutional trust account statement..." in 4
a different case in this court. See Jaques v. Dobbs, No. 2:24-cv-0478-DJC-EFB (E.D. Cal.), ECF
5 No. 6. After plaintiff was notified of the discrepancies in her IFP application in that other case,
6 she made no effort to correct her false IFP application in this case. Therefore, the undersigned 7
finds dismissal with prejudice appropriate. See Escobedo v. Applebees, 787 F.3d 1226, 1234 n. 8 8
(9th Cir. 2015) (emphasizing that dismissal pursuant to § 1915(e)(2) requires a showing of bad 9
faith and not a mere inaccuracy); Dawson v. Lennon, 797 F.2d 934, 935-936 (11th Cir. 1986) 10
(per curiam) (concluding that plaintiff's "behavior in attempting to claim indigent status while 11
failing to draw the court's attention to previous authoritative determinations of his lack of 12
indigency is sufficient evidence of bad faith to support the district court's exercise of discretion 13
[to dismiss the case with prejudice]"). The court has considered alternative sanctions, including 14
dismissal without prejudice. But in light of the circumstances of plaintiff's false statements and 15
the relevant law, anything less than a dismissal with prejudice would be inappropriate. Therefore,
16 the court recommends granting defendants' motion to dismiss this action with prejudice. 17 IV.
Plain Language Summary for Party Proceeding Without an Attorney 18 Since plaintiff is
representing herself in this case, the court wants to make sure that the 19 words of this order are
understood. The following information is meant to explain this order in 20 plain English and is not
intended as legal advice. 21 After reviewing the evidence submitted by defendants and your prior
litigation history, the 22 court finds that you submitted a false IFP application in bad faith in this
case. It is recommended 23 that defendants' motion to dismiss be granted and that your case be
dismissed with prejudice as a 24 sanction. 25 If you disagree with this recommendation, you have
21 days to explain why it is not 26 correct. Label your explanation as "Objections to Magistrate
Judge's Findings and 27 Recommendations." The district judge will make the final decision. 28
////] Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that: 2 1. Defendants' motion to dismiss,
or, in the alternative, revoke plaintiffs in forma 3 || pauperis status (ECF No. 22) be granted. 4 2.

Plaintiffs complaint be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 5 |} 1915(e)(2)(A). 6 3.
The Clerk of Court be directed to close this case. 7 These findings and recommendations are
submitted to the United States District Judge 8 || assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of
28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within twenty one days 9 || after being served with these findings and
recommendations, any party may file written 10 | objections with the court and serve a copy on all
parties. Such a document should be captioned 11 | “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and
Recommendations.” Any response to the 12 || objections shall be filed and served within fourteen
days after service of the objections. The 13 || parties are advised that failure to file objections
within the specified time may waive the right to 14 || appeal the District Court’s order. Martinez v.
YIst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991). 15 || DATED: June 26, 2025 fob 17
18 SEAN C. RIORDAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28