

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

Hunter Alexander v. John Does, I.R.S., U.S. Postal

Alexander · No. 1:26-cv-00525-JPH-MJD · Decided April 1, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana grants Hunter Alexander leave to proceed in forma pauperis subject to an initial partial filing fee of \$18.32. The court dismisses the complaint with prejudice as frivolous and for failure to state a claim, denies the motion for recruited counsel, and warns that the dismissal may count as a strike under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). The court also warns Alexander that continued frivolous filings may result in filing restrictions or monetary sanctions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
DECIDED	April 1, 2026
DOCKET	1:26-cv-00525-JPH-MJD
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court screened a pro se prisoner's complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, ruled on his motion to proceed in forma pauperis and motion for recruited counsel, and dismissed the complaint with prejudice.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b), the court must dismiss any portion of a prisoner's complaint that is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim, or seeks monetary relief from an immune defendant. The failure-to-state-a-claim inquiry applies the Rule 12(b)(6) standard, including whether the complaint states a plausible claim for relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; nonprecedential
PARTIES	Hunter Alexander v. John Does, I.R.S., U.S. Postal

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- motions to dismiss
- pleadings
- section 1983
- sanctions

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure prisoner civil rights in forma pauperis proceedings tax-related claims
court sanctions and filing restrictions

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint should be dismissed as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A because it rested in part on an allegation of a nonexistent currency denomination.
2. Whether the allegations concerning difficulty filing tax records and maintaining business records stated a claim against the IRS or Postal Service where the complaint did not allege their personal involvement in the asserted deprivation.
3. Whether dismissal should be with prejudice without leave to amend.
4. Whether Alexander was entitled to recruited counsel in light of the wholly meritless claims.
5. Whether the court should warn Alexander that the dismissal may constitute a strike under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) and that continued frivolous filings could result in filing restrictions or monetary sanctions.

HOLDINGS

1. The allegation that a new currency denomination described as "\$000.59³" had been introduced was factually frivolous because it was plainly baseless.
2. The allegations that incarceration impeded Alexander's ability to file tax records or maintain business records failed to state a claim against the IRS or Postal Service because the complaint did not allege that either defendant was involved in the alleged deprivation.
3. Dismissal with prejudice without an opportunity to amend or show cause was proper because there was no chance Alexander could amend the complaint to state a viable claim based on the allegations presented.
4. The motion for recruited counsel was denied because the case was wholly meritless and it was not in the interest of justice to recruit counsel.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"*enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.*" (Section II.A)

"*lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact.*" (Section II.C)

"*clearly baseless, fanciful, fantastic, delusional, irrational, or wholly incredible.*" (Section II.C)

"*based on an indisputably meritless legal theory.*" (Section II.C)

"*request*" counsel." (Section III)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Alexander alleged that the United States Postal Service introduced a new currency denomination described as "\$000.59³," which he characterized as an invalid "tenth" denomination. He claimed that this alleged currency issue caused tax-related problems and that his incarceration caused him to lose business documents, impairing his ability to address tax matters and maintain records. He sought damages from the IRS, the Postal Service, and John Doe defendants.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Alexander filed a complaint alleging that the Postal Service introduced an invalid currency denomination and that his incarceration impaired his ability to address tax matters and maintain business records. The court granted in forma pauperis status subject to an initial partial filing fee, denied recruited counsel, screened the complaint, and dismissed it with prejudice as frivolous and for failure to state a claim. The court also warned that the dismissal may count as a strike under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) and that continued frivolous filings could result in filing restrictions or monetary sanctions.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Alexander v. Does, Car Makers, No. 1:26-cv-00528-JMS-KMB (S.D. Ind. Mar. 18, 2026)
- Alexander v. Does (old electrical in HUMS, septic in dirt, water lines in dirt), No. 1:26-cv-00521-TWP-MG (S.D. Ind. Mar. 18, 2026)
- Alexander v. John Does (Microwave, Stove, Prop[a]ne, LLC), No. 1:26-cv-523-MPB-MG (S.D. Ind. Mar. 18, 2026)
- Alexander v. John Does, Trash Companies, EPA, No. 1:26-cv-00526-JRS-KMB (S.D. Ind. Mar. 18, 2026)
- Alexander v. John Doe, Gas Stations, No. 1:26-cv-00531-SEB-TAB (S.D. Ind. Mar. 19, 2026)
- Whitaker v. Dempsey, 83 F.4th 1059, 1061 (7th Cir. 2023)
- Schillinger v. Kiley, 954 F.3d 990, 993 (7th Cir. 2020)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
- Cesal v. Moats, 851 F.3d 714, 720 (7th Cir. 2017)
- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989)
- Felton v. City of Chicago, 827 F.3d 632, 635 (7th Cir. 2016)
- Colbert v. City of Chicago, 851 F.3d 649, 657 (7th Cir. 2017)
- Luevano v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 722 F.3d 1014, 1022 (7th Cir. 2013)
- Egwuenu v. Charles Schwab & Co., 834 F. App'x 245 (7th Cir. Jan. 21, 2021) (unpublished)
- Walker v. Price, 900 F.3d 933, 938 (7th Cir. 2018)
- Mallard v. United States District Court, 490 U.S. 296, 300 (1989)
- Watts v. Kidman, 42 F.4th 755, 764, 766 (7th Cir. 2022)

- Hill v. Madison Cty., Ill., 983 F.3d 904, 906 (7th Cir. 2020)
- Montgomery v. Davis, 362 F.3d 956, 957 (7th Cir. 2004)
- In re McDonald, 489 U.S. 180, 184 (1989)
- Support Sys. Int'l v. Mack, 45 F.3d 185, 186 (7th Cir. 1995)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS
DIVISION HUNTER ALEXANDER,)) Plaintiff,)) v.) No. 1:26-cv-00525-JPH-MJD) JOHN
DOES,) I.R.S.,) U.S. POSTAL,)) Defendants.) ORDER SCREENING AND DISMISSING
COMPLAINT, GRANTING MOTION TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS, AND WARNING
OF FILING RESTRICTION This week, plaintiff Hunter Alexander has flooded this Court with
frivolous lawsuits.

See Alexander v. Does, Car Makers, 1:26-cv-00528-JMS-KMB (S.D. Ind. Mar. 18, 2026);
Alexander v. Does (old electrical in HUMS, septic in dirt, water lines in dirt), 1:26-cv-00521-
TWP-MG (S.D. Ind. Mar. 18, 2026); Alexander v. John Does (Microwave, Stove, Prop[a]ne,
LLC), 1:26-cv-523-MPB-MG (S.D. Ind. Mar. 18, 2026) (S.D. Ind. Mar. 18, 2026); Alexander v.
John Does, Trash Companies, EPA, 1:26-cv-00526-JRS-KMB (S.D.

Ind. Mar. 18, 2026); and Alexander v. John Doe, Gas Stations, 1:26-cv-00531-SEB-TAB (S.D.
Ind. Mar. 19, 2026). In this Order, the Court rules on Mr. Alexander's motions, screens and
dismisses his complaint, and warns Mr. Alexander about frivolous litigation.

I. Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis The motion to proceed in forma pauperis, dkt. [3], is
granted to the extent that the plaintiff is assessed an initial partial filing fee of \$18.32. See 28
U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1); Whitaker v. Dempsey, 83 F.4th 1059, 1061 (7th Cir. 2023) (stating that even
a prisoner with \$2000 in assets might be eligible to proceed in forma pauperis).

Mr. Alexander shall have through April 17, 2026, in which to pay this sum to the clerk of the
district court. He is informed that after the initial partial filing fee is paid, he will be obligated to
make monthly payments of 20 percent of the preceding month's income each month that the
amount in his account exceeds \$10.00, until the full filing fee of \$350.00 is paid.

28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). After the initial partial filing fee is received, a collection order will be
issued to the plaintiff and his custodian. II. Screening and Dismissal of the Complaint A.
Screening Standard When screening a complaint, the Court must dismiss any portion that is
frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim for relief, or seeks monetary relief against a defendant
who is immune from such relief.

28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b). To determine whether the complaint states a claim, the Court applies the
same standard as when addressing a motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure

12(b)(6). See *Schillinger v. Kiley*, 954 F.3d 990, 993 (7th Cir. 2020).

Under that standard, a complaint must include "enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007). "A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged."

Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). The Court construes pro se complaints liberally and holds them to a "less stringent standard than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers." *Cesal v. Moats*, 851 F.3d 714, 720 (7th Cir. 2017). B. The Complaint Mr. Alexander names the IRS, the U.S. Postal Service, and "John Does" as defendants. Mr. Alexander alleges that the U.S. Postal Service introduced a new currency denominated as "\$000.59³" which "is considered a tenth" and that this denomination does not exist.

He alleges that this invalid "tenth" currency has snowballed into tax-related problems. Mr. Alexander alleges that his incarceration has caused him to lose business documents, which has impeded his ability to address tax matters and maintain records. Mr. Alexander seeks damages. C. Dismissal of the Complaint The complaint must be dismissed for failure to state a claim and as frivolous.

A complaint may be dismissed as frivolous when it "lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact." *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989). An allegation is factually frivolous when it is "clearly baseless, fanciful, fantastic, delusional, irrational, or wholly incredible." *Felton v. City of Chicago*, 827 F.3d 632, 635 (7th Cir. 2016) (cleaned up). "A claim is legally frivolous if it is 'based on an indisputably meritless legal theory.'" *Id.* (quoting *Neitske*, 490 U.S. at 327–28).

Here, Mr. Alexander's allegation that a new "tenth" denomination has been introduced is plainly factually frivolous. Mr. Alexander's claim that he has difficulty filing tax records or maintaining business records due to his incarceration is not factually frivolous. But he does not allege, nor could he, that either the IRS or the Postal Service was involved in this issue.

Thus, this claim is dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. See *Colbert v. City of Chicago*, 851 F.3d 649, 657 (7th Cir. 2017) ("Individual liability under § 1983 ... requires personal involvement in the alleged constitutional deprivation.") (internal quotation omitted).

In almost all cases where a plaintiff is proceeding pro se, the plaintiff should be provided an opportunity to amend his complaint or show cause why the case should not be dismissed. See *Luevano v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 722 F.3d 1014, 1022 (7th Cir. 2013) ("Without at least an opportunity to amend or to respond to an order to show cause, an IFP applicant's case could be tossed out of court without giving the applicant any timely notice or opportunity to be heard to clarify, contest, or simply request leave to amend.").

Such a step is unnecessary here where there is no chance that Mr. Alexander could file an amended complaint that states a viable claim related to the allegations, such as they are, in his complaint. See *Egwuenu v. Charles Schwab & Co.*, 834 F. App'x 245 (7th Cir. Jan. 21, 2021) (unpublished) (noting dismissal with prejudice, without leave to amend, was justified in case where plaintiff had previously filed frivolous cases about "the same vast, persistent conspiracy.").

Accordingly, this case is dismissed with prejudice as frivolous and for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Final judgment consistent with this Order shall now issue. III. Motion for Counsel Mr. Alexander has filed a motion for assistance recruiting counsel. Dkt. 4. Litigants in federal civil cases do not have a constitutional or statutory right to court-appointed counsel.

Walker v. Price, 900 F.3d 933, 938 (7th Cir. 2018). Instead, 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1) gives courts the authority to "request" counsel. *Mallard v. United States District Court*, 490 U.S. 296, 300 (1989). As a practical matter, there are not enough lawyers willing and qualified to accept a pro bono assignment in every pro se case. See *Watts v. Kidman*, 42 F.4th 755, 764 (7th Cir.

2022) (explaining that courts must be careful stewards of the limited resource of volunteer lawyers). Courts may consider the merits of a plaintiff's claim when deciding whether to recruit counsel. *Id.* at 766. Here, it would not be in the interest of justice to recruit counsel for a wholly meritless case.

Thus, the motion to appoint recruited counsel, dkt. [4], is denied. IV. Warning Regarding Strikes and Frivolous Lawsuits Because this case is being dismissed for failure to state a claim, Mr. Alexander is warned that it may constitute a "strike" under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), which limits a prisoner's ability to proceed in forma pauperis after having three cases or appeals dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

See *Hill v. Madison Cty., Ill.*, 983 F.3d 904, 906 (7th Cir. 2020) ("It makes good sense for a judge who believes a dismissal to come within the scope of § 1915(g) to include notice to that effect," even though later courts must make the conclusive determination of whether each prior dismissal meets the statutory definition). A plaintiff who has struck out cannot proceed in forma pauperis unless he alleges that he is "in imminent danger of serious physical injury."

28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). Additionally, the Court has a duty to deter frivolous filings. "Every paper filed... no matter how repetitious or frivolous, requires some portion of the institution's limited resources. A part of the Court's responsibility is to see that these resources are allocated in a way that promotes the interests of justice." *Montgomery v. Davis*, 362 F.3d 956, 957 (7th Cir.

2004) (quoting *In re McDonald*, 489 U.S. 180, 184 (1989)). Frivolous filing behavior cannot be tolerated, and "the judicial authority to curb it is ample." *Support Sys. Int'l v. Mack*, 45 F.3d 185, 186 (7th Cir. 1995) (collecting cases).

The Court warns Mr. Alexander that this pattern of litigation must stop, or he risks filing restrictions. If Mr. Alexander continues to file frivolous pleadings, the Court will restrict him from filing new actions or motions in this Court and may elect to assess fines against him.

V. Conclusion Mr. Alexander's motion to proceed in forma pauperis, dkt. [3], is granted. He has through April 17, 2026, to pay the Court \$18.32. Once he does, the Court will issue a collection order to collect the rest of the filing fee. Mr. Alexander's motion to appoint counsel, dkt.

[4], is denied. This case is dismissed with prejudice as frivolous and for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Final judgment consistent with this Order shall now issue. Mr. Alexander is warned that the dismissal of this action may constitute a strike under 28 U.S.C. 1915(g). He is further warned that if he persists in filing frivolous lawsuits in this Court, the Court may sanction him by restricting him from filing new actions or motions in this Court or imposing monetary sanctions.

SO ORDERED. Date: 4/1/2026 Sjamnu Patnaik Hanbore James Patrick Hanlon United States District Judge Southern District of Indiana Distribution: HUNTER ALEXANDER 201044 PENDLETON - CF PENDLETON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY Inmate Mail/Parcels 4490 West Reformatory Road PENDLETON, IN 46064 Financial Deputy Clerk Electronic notice to IDOC 1 Despite the Court's dismissal of this action, Mr. Alexander is still required to pay the \$350.00 filing fee, as it is the filing of the case that triggers the obligation to pay a filing fee.