

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

Carl F. Self v. Lt. Cormican, et al.

Self v. Cormican · No. 25-cv-1027-wmc · Decided January 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin orders plaintiff Carl F. Self to pay an initial partial filing fee of \$79.53 under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1) by February 3, 2026, or explain his inability to do so. The court stays further action pending payment and screening, and warns that failure to pay or show cause will result in dismissal without prejudice.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Andrew R. Wiseman
DECIDED	January 6, 2026
DOCKET	25-cv-1027-wmc
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff, a prisoner litigant, sought leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee and submitted a certified inmate trust fund account statement. The court assessed an initial partial filing-fee payment under the Prison Litigation Reform Act and stayed further action pending payment and statutory screening.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order
PARTIES	Carl F. Self v. Lt. Cormican, et al.

TOPICS

- prisoners rights
- civil procedure
- costs

PRACTICE AREAS

- Prison Litigation Reform Act
- in forma pauperis proceedings
- prisoner civil rights litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether plaintiff qualified to proceed without prepaying the full filing fee while remaining subject to the Prison Litigation Reform Act's initial partial payment requirement.

2. What amount should be assessed as plaintiff's initial partial filing-fee payment and what consequence should follow if he failed to pay or show cause.

HOLDINGS

1. A prisoner litigant who qualifies to proceed without prepaying the full filing fee must pay an initial partial filing fee under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).
2. Plaintiff was assessed an initial partial filing-fee payment of \$79.53, due by February 3, 2026, unless he explained why he could not pay.
3. If plaintiff failed to make the initial partial payment by February 3, 2026, or failed to show cause for nonpayment, the court would treat the failure as an indication that he wished to withdraw the action and would dismiss the case without prejudice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(i), subject to limited reopening conditions.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Carl F. Self is an inmate who brought this action against Lt. Cormican and other defendants. He requested leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee and submitted a certified inmate trust fund account statement. Based on that statement, the court calculated an initial partial payment of \$79.53.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. After plaintiff submitted his inmate trust fund account statement, the court calculated an initial partial filing-fee payment of \$79.53, ordered payment or an explanation of inability to pay by February 3, 2026, and stated that the complaint would be screened after the payment issue was resolved.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Carter v. Bennett, 399 F. Supp. 2d 936, 937 (W.D. Wis. 2005)