

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
ALABAMA, NORTHERN DIVISION**

Larry Mack v. Tracy Jackson, et al.

Mack · No. 2:25-CV-69-WKW · Decided December 8, 2025

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION LARRY MACK, AIS # 150585,)) Plaintiff,)) v.) CASE NO. 2:25-
CV-69-WKW) [WO] TRACY JACKSON, et al.,)) Defendants.) ORDER Before the court is
Plaintiff’s motion to get legal assistance. (Doc. # 11.) A plaintiff in a civil case has no
constitutional right to counsel.

Kilgo v. Ricks, 983 F.2d 189, 193 (11th Cir. 1993) (citing Poole v. Lambert, 819 F.2d 1025, 1028
(11th Cir. 1987) (per curiam)). Generally, appointment of counsel in a civil case is “a privilege
that is justified only by exceptional circumstances, such as where the facts and legal issues are so
novel or complex as to require the assistance of a trained practitioner.” Dean v. Barber, 951 F.2d
1210, 1216 (11th Cir.

1992) (quoting Poole, 819 F.2d at 1028). Although Plaintiff has been granted leave to proceed in
forma pauperis (Doc. # 12), and 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1) says that “the court may request an
attorney to represent any person unable to afford counsel” (emphasis added), the court has broad
discretion in deciding whether appointment of counsel is appropriate. Killian v. Holt, 166 F.3d
1156, 1157 (11th Cir.

1999) (per curiam). As grounds for his motion, Plaintiff simply requests counsel because he has
“no way to move forward without help.” Upon review of the record, however, the issues raised in
Plaintiff’s complaint are not novel or unduly complex. Furthermore, Plaintiff has not presented
any exceptional circumstances that would justify appointment of counsel at this time.

Finally, looking to his amended complaint (Doc. # 7), it appears that Plaintiff is able to articulate
facts and grounds for relief without notable difficulty. Based on the foregoing, it is ORDERED
that Plaintiff’s motion for appointment of counsel (Doc. # 11) is DENIED at this time.

The court will reconsider this issue at a later date if warranted by the circumstances of this case.
DONE this 8th day of December, 2025. /s/ W. Keith Watkins UNITED STATES DISTRICT
JUDGE