

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Michael West v. Carol Gillan, et al.

West v. Gillan · No. No. 25cv12164 (EP) (JBC) · Decided January 28, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey denied without prejudice Michael West's third application to proceed in forma pauperis because it contained numerous unanswered questions and insufficient information for the Court to assess his ability to pay. The Court gave Plaintiff 30 days to pay the civil filing and administrative fees or submit a properly completed Form AO 239, and directed the Clerk to mail him the form and a copy of the order.

OPINION

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY MICHAEL WEST, Plaintiff, No. 25cv12164 (EP) (JBC) MEMORANDUM ORDER CAROL GILLAN, ef al., Defendants. PADIN, District Judge. Pro se Plaintiff Michael West alleges deprivation of his rights under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the United States Constitution. D.E. 1 ('Complaint'). Plaintiff has neither paid the applicable \$350 filing fee for a civil case under 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a), nor the \$55 administrative fee under Appendix K to the Local Civil Rules.

With his Complaint, Plaintiff submitted a document styled as an application to proceed in forma pauperis ("IFP") under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). D.E. 1-3 ("First IFP Application"). However, Plaintiff did not use the proper form required by the Court (Form AO 239, available at <https://www.njd.uscourts.gov/sites/njd/files/forms/AO-239.pdf>).

On August 26, 2025, the Court accordingly entered an order explaining that Plaintiff had not met the requirements for IFP status and informing Plaintiff that he must either pay the filing and administrative fees or submit a properly completed IFP application on Form AO 239 (with which the Court provided Plaintiff). D.E. 5. Plaintiff did not file a properly completed IFP application on Form AO 239 as ordered by the Court.

Instead, he filed an application on the incorrect form. D-E. 6 ("Second IFP Application"). On October 27, 2025, the Court accordingly entered a second order explaining that Plaintiff had not met the requirements for IFP status and informing Plaintiff that he must either pay the filing and administrative fees or submit a properly completed IFP application on Form AO 239 (with which the Court again provided Plaintiff).

D.E. 7. Plaintiff has now submitted an IFP application on the correct form. D.E. 8 (“Third IFP Application”). Upon review of Plaintiff's Third IFP Application, however, it appears that he has not provided all the necessary information required by the instructions set forth in the application, which requires applicants to “[c]omplete all questions in [the] application” and instructs applicants “not [to] leave any blanks: if the answer to a question is ‘0,’ ‘none,’ or ‘not applicable (N/A),’ write that response.” See Third IFP Application at 1.

Here, Plaintiff's Third IFP Application has numerous blank entries, including, but not limited to, as requested in Question 4, “[h]ow much cash” he has, and the entirety of Question 7. See *id.* at 1-5. The Court is therefore “unable to determine whether Plaintiff has the ability to pay fees and costs.” *Watson v. Washington Twp. of Gloucester Cty. Pub. Sch. Dist.*, No. 09-3650, 2009 WL 2778282, at *2 (D.N.J.

Aug. 28, 2009). Accordingly, IT IS, on this 28th day of January 2026, ORDERED that Plaintiff's Third IFP Application, D.E. 8, is DENIED without prejudice; and it is further ORDERED that if Plaintiff wishes to reopen this action he shall either, within 30 days of entry of this Order: (1) pay the \$405 civil filing and administrative fees, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a) and Appendix K to the Local Civil Rules; or (2) submit a properly completed IFP application on Form AO 239, available at <https://www.njd.uscourts.gov/sites/njd/files/forms/AO-239.pdf>; and it is further ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall send Plaintiff a blank Form AO 239 by regular mail; and it is finally ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall send a copy of this Order to Plaintiff by regular mail.

Sel, ☐☐☐ Evelyn Padin, U.S.D.J.