

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
INDIANA, FORT WAYNE DIVISION

Michael Jeffrey Mock v. Samuel Conrad, et al.

Mock v. Conrad · No. 1:26-CV-106-TLS-AZ · Decided March 6, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana denies Michael Jeffrey Mock leave to proceed in forma pauperis under the Prison Litigation Reform Act's three-strikes provision. The court finds that Mock has not plausibly alleged imminent danger of serious physical injury, grants him until April 3, 2026, to pay the filing fee, and cautions that the case will otherwise be dismissed.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, Fort Wayne Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Theresa L. Springmann
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, Fort Wayne Division
DECIDED	March 6, 2026
DOCKET	1:26-CV-106-TLS-AZ
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	A prisoner proceeding without counsel filed a civil complaint and sought leave to proceed in forma pauperis. The district court denied in forma pauperis status under the Prison Litigation Reform Act's three-strikes provision and allowed the plaintiff until April 3, 2026, to pay the filing fee.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court evaluated the sufficiency of the complaint's allegations under the imminent-danger exception to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court opinion; nonprecedential
PARTIES	Michael Jeffrey Mock v. Samuel Conrad, et al.

TOPICS

- prisoners rights
- civil rights
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Prisoner civil rights

Federal civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Mock was barred by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) from proceeding in forma pauperis because he had three qualifying prior dismissals.
2. Whether Mock plausibly alleged imminent danger of serious physical injury sufficient to invoke the exception to the three-strikes rule.

HOLDINGS

1. Mock had three qualifying prior dismissals and therefore could not proceed in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) unless he satisfied the imminent-danger exception.
2. Mock did not plausibly allege imminent danger of serious physical injury related to the claims raised in the complaint.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A prisoner may not bring a civil action in forma pauperis if he has, “on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it [was] frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury.”” (Opinion and Order, at 1)

“This complaint does not plausibly allege that he is in imminent danger of serious physical injury related to the claims raised in this case.” (Opinion and Order, at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Michael Jeffrey Mock, a prisoner without a lawyer, sought to proceed in forma pauperis while pursuing monetary damages based on events that occurred in January and February 2026. The court identified three prior Mock actions dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A for failure to state a claim. The complaint did not plausibly allege that Mock faced imminent danger of serious physical injury related to the claims in the present case.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Mock filed a complaint seeking monetary damages for events allegedly occurring in January and February 2026, together with an application to proceed in forma pauperis. The court determined that three of Mock's prior actions had been dismissed for failure to state a claim and that the complaint did not plausibly allege imminent danger of serious physical injury. The court denied the application, set a deadline for payment of the \$405 filing fee, and cautioned that failure to pay would result in dismissal without further notice.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Abdul-Wadood v. Nathan, 91 F.3d 1023, 1025 (7th Cir. 1996)
- Ciarpaglini v. Saini, 352 F.3d 328, 330 (7th Cir. 2003)
- Lewis v. Sullivan, 279 F.3d 526, 531 (7th Cir. 2002)

OPINION

Mock

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

FORT WAYNE DIVISION

MICHAEL JEFFREY MOCK,

Plaintiff,

v. CAUSE NO. 1:26-CV-106-TLS-AZ

SAMUEL CONRAD, et al., Defendants.

OPINION AND ORDER

Michael Jeffrey Mock, a prisoner without a lawyer, filed a complaint and seeks leave to proceed in forma pauperis. ECF 1 and 2. A prisoner may not bring a civil action in forma pauperis if he has, “on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it [was] frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). This is commonly known as the “three strikes” provision. Mock has three strikes:

1. Mock v. Hicks, 1:19-cv-517 (N.D. Ind. filed December 9, 2019), dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A for failure to state a claim on December 16, 2019;
2. Mock v. Sprunger, 1:24-cv-327 (N.D. Ind. filed August 5, 2024), dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A for failure to state a claim on August 19, 2024; and
3. Mock v. Griner, 1:24-cv-272 (N.D. Ind. filed July 9, 2024), dismissed under 28

U.S.C. § 1915A for failure to state a claim on November 20, 2025. An inmate who has struck out “can use the partial prepayment option in §1915(b) only if in the future he ‘is under imminent danger of serious physical injury.’” Abdul-Wadood v. Nathan, 91 F.3d 1023, 1025 (7th Cir. 1996) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g)). To meet the imminent danger standard, the threat complained of must be real and proximate. Ciarpaglini v. Saini, 352 F.3d 328, 330 (7th Cir. 2003). Only “genuine emergencies” qualify as a basis for circumventing § 1915(g). Lewis v. Sullivan, 279 F.3d 526, 531 (7th Cir. 2002). Here, Mock is seeking monetary damages for past events which occurred in January and February 2026. This complaint does not plausibly allege that he is in imminent danger of serious physical injury related to the claims raised in this case. For these reasons, the court:

(1) DENIES Michael Jeffrey Mock leave to proceed in forma pauperis (ECF 2);

(2) GRANTS Michael Jeffrey Mock until April 3, 2026, to pay the \$405 filing fee; and
(3) CAUTIONS Michael Jeffrey Mock if he does not respond by the deadline, this case
will be dismissed without further notice. SO ORDERED on March 6, 2026. s/ Theresa L.
Springmann

JUDGE THERESA L. SPRINGMANN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT