

**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.

OPINION

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