

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

LORENZO DANTE NICHOLS,

Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL DITTMAN, *et al.*,

Defendants.

ORDER

10-cv-470-slc

In response to this court's August 19, 2010 order, plaintiff has submitted a certified copy of his six-month trust fund account statement so that I can determine whether he qualifies for indigent status and, if he does, calculate an initial partial payment of the \$350 fee for filing this case. In determining whether a prisoner litigant qualifies for indigent status this court applies the formula set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). According to this formula, a prisoner requesting leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* must prepay 20% of the greater of the average monthly balance or the average monthly deposits made to his prison account in the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint.

In this case, 20% of the average monthly deposits made to plaintiff's account is \$18.30, but 20% of the average monthly balance in his account is \$21.43. Because the greater of the two amounts is 20% of the average monthly balance, or \$21.43, that is the amount plaintiff will be assessed as an initial partial payment of the filing fee. If plaintiff does not have the money to make the initial partial payment in his regular account, he will have to arrange with prison authorities to pay some or all of the assessment from his release account. This does not mean that plaintiff is free to ask prison authorities to pay *all* of his filing fee from his release account. The only amount plaintiff must pay at this time is the \$21.43 initial partial payment. Before

prison officials take any portion of that amount from plaintiff's release account, they may first take from plaintiff's regular account whatever amount up to the full amount plaintiff owes.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that plaintiff is assessed \$21.43 as an initial partial payment of the \$350 fee for filing this case. He is to submit a check or money order made payable to the clerk of court in the amount of \$21.43 on or before September 20, 2010. If, by September 20, 2010, plaintiff fails to make the initial partial payment or show cause for his failure to do so, he will be held to have withdrawn this action voluntarily. In that event, the clerk of court is directed to close this file without prejudice to plaintiff's filing his case at a later date.

Entered this 27th day of August, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER
Magistrate Judge