

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

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EARL DEWAYNE PHIFFER,

Plaintiff,

v.

MICHAEL J. BYRON, MICHAEL R. FITZPATRICK,  
CHARLES P. DYKMAN, PAUL J. LUNDSTEN,  
PAUL B. HIGGENBOTHAM, BARBARA CRABB and  
JOSHUA KLAFF,

Defendants.

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ORDER

12-cv-359-bbc

In response to this court's May 21, 2012, 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 his account is \$10.12, but 20% of the average monthly balance is \$50.75. Because the greater of the two amounts is 20% of the average monthly balance, or \$50.75, 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 \$50.75 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. Plaintiff should show a copy of this order to prison officials to insure that they are aware they should send plaintiff's initial partial payment to this court.

#### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that plaintiff Earl Phiffer is assessed \$50.75 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 \$50.75 on or before June 22, 2012. If, by June 22, 2012, 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

Entered this 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2012.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER  
Magistrate Judge