

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
MACON DIVISION

RICKY J. JOHNSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

Dr. SHARON LEWIS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO.
5:16-CV-00453-TES-MSH

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

Presently pending before the Court is a motion for leave to appeal *in forma pauperis* filed by *pro se* Plaintiff Ricky J. Johnson, a prisoner currently incarcerated at the Coffee Correctional Facility in Nicholls, Georgia. [Doc. 188]. Plaintiff seeks to appeal from the Court's December 5, 2019 Order adopting the Report and Recommendation of the United State Magistrate Judge, granting the motion for summary judgment filed by Defendants Ferrell, Johnson, and Lewis, and granting in part and denying in part the motion for summary judgment filed by Defendants Marler and Turner. [Doc. 178].

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1), a court may authorize an appeal of a civil action or proceeding without prepayment of fees or security therefor if the putative appellant has filed "an affidavit that includes a statement of all assets" and "state[s] the

nature of the . . . appeal and [the] affiant's belief that the person is entitled to redress."¹

If the trial court certifies in writing that the appeal is not taken in good faith, however, such appeal may not be taken *in forma pauperis*. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3).

“‘[G]ood faith’ . . . must be judged by an objective standard.” *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962). The plaintiff demonstrates good faith when he seeks review of a non-frivolous issue. *Id.*; see also *Morris v. Ross*, 663 F.2d 1032, 1033 (11th Cir. 1981). An issue “is frivolous if it is ‘without arguable merit either in law or fact.’” *Napier v. Preslicka*, 314 F.3d 528, 531 (11th Cir. 2002). “Arguable means being capable of being convincingly argued.” *Sun v. Forrester*, 939 F.2d 924, 925 (11th Cir. 1991) (per curiam) (quotation marks and citations omitted); *Carroll v. Gross*, 984 F.2d 392, 393 (11th Cir. 1993) (per curiam) (“[A] case is frivolous . . . when it appears the plaintiff ‘has little or no chance of success.’”) (citations omitted). “In deciding whether an [in forma pauperis] appeal is frivolous, a district court determines whether there is ‘a factual and legal basis, of constitutional dimension, for the asserted wrong, however inartfully pleaded.’” *Sun*, 939 F.2d at 925 (citations omitted).

Although Plaintiff does not appear to have submitted a statement of the issues he intends to appeal, as is required under Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(1)(C), this Court’s

¹Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24 similarly requires a party seeking leave to appeal *in forma pauperis* to file a motion and affidavit that establishes the party’s inability to pay fees and costs, the party’s belief that he is entitled to redress, and a statement of the issues which the party intends to present on appeal. Fed. R. App. P. 24(a).

independent review of the issues addressed in the United States Magistrate Judge's recommendation and the Court's order adopting that recommendation demonstrates that Plaintiff's appeal is frivolous. *See Hyche v. Christensen*, 170 F.3d 769, 771 (7th Cir. 1999), *overruled on other grounds by Lee v. Clinton*, 209 F.3d 1025 (7th Cir. 2000) (explaining that the arguments to be advanced on appeal are often obvious and decisions regarding good faith can be made by looking at the "reasoning of the ruling sought to be appealed" instead of requiring a statement from the plaintiff).

Thus, the Court finds that the appeal is not brought in good faith since Plaintiff has raised no issues with arguable merit. Accordingly, the Court **DENIES** Plaintiff's motion for leave to appeal *in forma pauperis*. [Doc. 188].

If Plaintiff wishes to proceed with his appeal, he must pay the entire \$505 appellate filing fee. Because Plaintiff has stated that he cannot pay the fee immediately, he must pay using the partial payment plan described under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). Pursuant to section 1915(b), the prison account custodian where Plaintiff is confined shall cause to be remitted to the Clerk of this Court monthly payments of 20% of the preceding month's income credited to Plaintiff's account (to the extent the account balance exceeds \$10) until the \$505 appellate filing fee has been paid in full. Checks should be made payable to "Clerk, U.S. District Court."

Additionally, the Court **DIRECTS** the Clerk of Court to send a copy of this Order to the custodian of the prison in which Plaintiff is incarcerated.

SO ORDERED, this 1st day of June, 2020.

s/Tilman E. Self, III
TILMAN E. SELF, III, JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT