

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT**

No. 18-40535

In re: CURTIS LEE SHEPPARD, JR.,

Petitioner

Petition for a Writ of Mandamus to the
United States District Court for the
Eastern District of Texas

Before REAVLEY, ELROD, and OLDHAM, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:

Curtis Lee Sheppard, Jr., Texas prisoner # 1656666, has filed in this court a pro se petition for a writ of mandamus and a motion requesting leave to file his mandamus petition in forma pauperis (IFP). In his petition, Sheppard complains of delay in the adjudication of his civil rights lawsuit, filed in April 2012, in which he challenged a prison policy prohibiting wearing dreadlocks on the grounds that it violates his religious freedom. He has also filed a motion for summary judgment, a motion for removal of cause, a motion for de novo determination, and a motion for enforcement of binding precedent.

Although it does seem that several of Sheppard's motions have been pending in the district court for a substantial time, we do not reach the merits of Sheppard's petition because he is barred from proceeding IFP, having accumulated three strikes under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). *See Sheppard v. Livingston*, 575 F. App'x 498 (5th Cir. 2014). Sheppard may overcome that bar

No. 18-40535

only by showing that he is in imminent danger of serious physical injury, a circumstance not present here. *See* § 1915(g). Thus, the motion to proceed IFP is DENIED. The Clerk of Court is instructed to dismiss the mandamus petition for want of prosecution if Sheppard does not pay the full filing fee of \$500 within 30 days of the date of this order. All other pending motions are carried with the case.