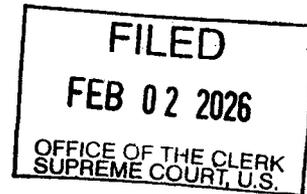


No. 25 - 6859



**IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

DANIEL R. WOOD - PETITIONER

VS.

BRIAN GOOTKIN - RESPONDENT

 **ORIGINAL**

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

The Petitioner asks leave to file the attached Petition for a Writ of Certiorari without prepayment of costs and to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

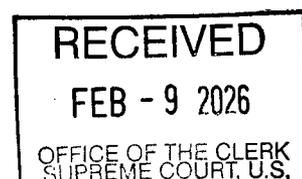
Petitioner has previously been granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in the Supreme Court of Montana.

Petitioner's Declaration in support of this Motion is attached hereto.

DATED this 2nd day of February, 2026.

BY: 

DANIEL R. WOOD, PRO-SE



DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

I, Daniel R. Wood, am the petitioner in the above-entitled case. In support of my Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*, I state that because of my poverty I am unable to pay the costs of this case or to give security therefor; and I believe I am entitled to redress.f

I am single and have no dependents; all questions below consider my finances and only mine.

1. For both you and your spouse estimate the average amount of money received from each of the following sources during the past 12 months. Adjust any amount that was received weekly, biweekly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually to show the monthly rate. Use gross amounts, that is, amounts before any deductions for taxes or otherwise.

Income Source	Avg. Monthly Amount - Past 12 Months	Amount Expected Next Month
Employment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Self-Employment	\$0.00	\$500.00
Income from Real Property	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest & Dividends	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gifts	\$250.00	\$250.00
Alimony	\$0.00	\$0.00

Income Source	Avg. Monthly Amount – Past 12 Months	Amount Expected Next Month
Child Support	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement	\$0.00	\$0.00
Disability	\$0.00	\$0.00
Public Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Monthly Income:	\$250.00	\$750.00

2. List your employment history for the past two years, most recent first. (Gross monthly pay is before taxes or other deductions.)

Employer	Address	Dates of Employment	Gross Monthly Pay
All Ways Caring	3309 Brooks Street, Ste. B Missoula, MT 59801	July 13, 2025 thru Nov. 5, 2025	\$3,200.00

3. List your spouse's employment history for the past two years, most recent employer first. N/A

4. How much cash do you have? \$ 0.00 Below, state any money you have in bank accounts or in any other financial institution.

Type of Account	Account Balance
Checking Account – Chime (Stride Bank)	\$0.00
Savings Account – Chime (Stride Bank)	\$0.00
Secured Credit Card – Chime (Stride Bank)	\$0.00

5. List the assets, and their values, which you own. Do not list clothing and ordi-

nary household furnishings.

Asset	Value
Motor Vehicle: 2016 Nissan Murano	\$9,330.00

6. State every person, business, or organization owing you or your spouse money, and the amount owed. N/A

7. State the persons who rely on you for support. N/A

8. Estimate your average monthly expenses. Adjust any payments that are made weekly, biweekly, quarterly, or annually to show the monthly rate.

Expense	Value
Rent: No real estate taxes or property insurance expenses.	\$50.00
Utilities: Telephone	\$50.00
Home Maintenance	\$0.00
Food	\$100.00
Laundry/Dry Cleaning	\$20.00
Medical & Dental Expenses	\$0.00
Transportation	\$30.00
Recreation/Entertainment	\$0.00
Insurance (Home/Life/Health/Vehicle/Other)	\$0.00
Taxes Not Deducted from Wages	\$0.00
Installment Payments (Vehicle/Credit Cards/Dept. Stores/Other)	\$0.00
Alimony/Maintenance/Support to Others	\$0.00
Regular Expenses for Operation of Business	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Monthly Expenses:	\$250.00

9. Do you expect any major changes to your monthly income or expenses or in your assets or liabilities during the next 12 months? **YES** If yes, describe:

I am expecting to find employment, hopefully moving from my tiny town of 900 to one of Montana's larger towns. This will increase both income and liabilities, though I plan on renting still, and don't expect any real change in assets. The anticipated self-employment income is uncertain and not guaranteed.

10. Have you paid – or will you be paying – an attorney any money for services in connection with this case, including the completion of this form? **NO**

11. Have you paid—or will you be paying—anyone other than an attorney (such as a paralegal or a typist) any money for services in connection with this case, including the completion of this form? **NO**

12. Provide any other information that will help explain why you cannot pay the costs of this case.

I live in a town of 900 in rural Montana, job opportunities are scarce. My Murano was stolen in April, 2024, and finally returned to me in July, 2025. The vehicle is necessary for basic transportation in a rural area and cannot reasonably be liquidated to fund litigation costs.

The nearest population center is an hour's drive from me.

Now, I'm dealing with having no income over the past two years meaning I have no money in reserve for fuel to make it to job interviews or jobs. I had a position in Lincoln last year, briefly, which ended when the client switched home health care service providers.

I, Daniel R. Wood, declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided in the foregoing *Declaration In Support of Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis* is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATED on this 2nd day of February, 2026, in Lincoln, Montana.

BY: 

DANIEL R. WOOD
PO BOX 201
LINCOLN, MT 59639