

United States Court of Appeals
for the Fifth Circuit

No. 25-40518

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

December 30, 2025

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

RAYMOND REGINALD PEOPLES, JR.,

Petitioner—Appellant,

versus

ERIC GUERRERO, *Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice,
Correctional Institutions Division,*

Respondent—Appellee.

Application for Certificate of Appealability
the United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Texas
USDC No. 1:23-CV-86

ORDER:

Raymond Reginald Peoples, Jr., Texas prisoner # 02348963, moves for a certificate of appealability (COA) to appeal the district court's denial of his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 application challenging his order of deferred adjudication and subsequent order adjudicating guilt for the offense of aggravated assault. In denying his § 2254 application, the district court rejected Peoples's claims that (i) there was insufficient evidence to sustain the trial court's findings that he had violated the terms of his deferred adjudication by sexually assaulting three individuals; (ii) his bail set by the

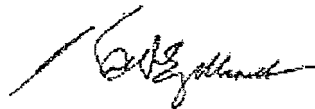
Appendix A

No. 25-40518

trial court after he was arrested for violating the conditions of his deferred adjudication was excessive; (iii) his Fourth Amendment rights were violated in connection with a traffic stop and subsequent search; and (iv) the trial court judge, Peoples's attorney, a detective, and the prosecutor all conspired against him in connection with the hearing on the sexual assault of the three individuals. In his COA pleadings, Peoples challenges the district court's rejection of these claims and also raises various ineffective-assistance claims that were implicitly denied by the district court.

In order to obtain a COA, Peoples must make "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); see *Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003). When the district court denies relief on the merits, an applicant must show that reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong. *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). When the district court denies relief on procedural grounds, a COA should issue if an applicant establishes, at least, that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the application states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right and whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling. *Id.*

Peoples fails to make the required showing. See *Slack*, 529 U.S. at 484. Accordingly, his motion for a COA is DENIED.



KURT D. ENGELHARDT
United States Circuit Judge

Exh 1

25-40518

Page 3 of 3

Tampered with barcode

Mr. Raymond Reginald Peoples, Jr.
#02848963
Jefferson County Correctional Facility
5030 Highway 69, S.
Beaumont, TX 77705

quadrant 12/31/2025
FIRST-CLASS
US POSTAGE \$000.7
ZIP 70113
041M11471

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FIFTH CIRCUIT
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Mr. Raymond Reginald Peoples, Jr.
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Jefferson County Correctional Facility
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Beaumont, TX 77705

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Exh 2

United States Court of Appeals
for the Fifth Circuit

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

December 18, 2025

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

No. 25-40518

RAYMOND REGINALD PEOPLES, JR.,

Petitioner—Appellant,

versus

ERIC GUERRERO, *Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice,
Correctional Institutions Division,*

Respondent—Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Texas
USDC No. 1:23-CV-86

ORDER:

IT IS ORDERED that Appellant's motion for bail pending appeal
is DENIED.


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
United States Circuit Judge

7 RP

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

ENTERED
September 09, 2025
Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

RAYMOND REGINALD PEOPLES, JR.,

Plaintiff,

VS.

GREG ABBOTT,

Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:25-CV-03563

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

Raymond Reginald Peoples, Jr. filed a civil rights complaint. The plaintiff also filed a motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

This case is governed by the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b), which requires prisoners to pay an initial partial filing fee. The PLRA also requires prisoners to pay thereafter the balance of the full filing fee of \$350.

Based on Peoples's inmate trust account statement, the court orders as follows:

1. The application for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Doc. # 11) is GRANTED.
2. The plaintiff is assessed an initial partial filing fee of \$14.00. The agency having custody of the plaintiff will collect this amount from the plaintiff's trust account, when funds are available, and forward it to the Clerk.
3. Thereafter, the plaintiff will pay \$336.00, the balance of the filing fee, in periodic installments as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). The agency having custody of the plaintiff will collect this amount from the plaintiff's trust account, when funds are available, and forward it to the Clerk.

RP

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BEAUMONT DIVISION

RAYMOND REGINALD PEOPLES, JR. §
VS. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:25-cv-117
ZENA STEPHENS §

ORDER RE COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OF FULL FILING FEE

The court having considered Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* in light of the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1996 (PLRA) finds the following:

Plaintiff, Raymond Reginald Peoples, Jr., #1248963, has paid an initial partial filing fee of \$3.84. It is therefore

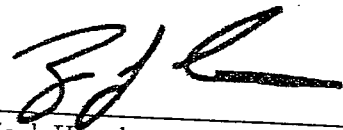
ORDERED that Plaintiff's Applications to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (docs. #2 and #7) are **GRANTED**. Additionally, it is

ORDERED that the agency having custody of Plaintiff, Raymond Reginald Peoples, Jr., #1248963, shall, when funds exist in Plaintiff's inmate trust account, deduct and forward to the Court 20% of each deposit made to Plaintiff's inmate trust account until Plaintiff has paid the remainder of the full \$350 filing fee, \$346.16. The agency shall forward payments to the Court on a regular basis provided the account exceeds \$10.00.

Plaintiff shall execute all consent forms and other documents required by the agency having custody of Plaintiff to authorize the necessary withdrawals from Plaintiff's inmate trust account.

The Clerk shall mail a copy of this Order to: Trust Fund Department or equivalent at the Jefferson County Correctional Facility, 5030 Hwy 69 S., Beaumont, Texas 77705.

SIGNED this 3rd day of December, 2025.


Zack Hawthorn
United States Magistrate Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BEAUMONT DIVISION

RAYMOND REGINALD PEOPLES, JR. §
VS. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:25-cv-476
ZENA STEPHENS, ET AL. §

INITIAL PARTIAL FILING FEE ORDER

Parties instituting any civil action, suit or proceeding are required to pay a filing fee of \$350.00 if they are granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. In this action, Plaintiff has filed two Motions to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*. The Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1996 ("PLRA") requires prisoners seeking to bring civil actions *in forma pauperis* to pay an initial partial filing fee. The PLRA further requires prisoners to thereafter pay the balance of the full filing fee. It is accordingly

ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff's Motion to Proceed *in Forma Pauperis* (doc. #3) is **GRANTED**. The Clerk shall file Plaintiff's pleadings without prepayment of the filing fee.
2. An initial partial filing fee of \$3.87 shall be paid to the Clerk within thirty (30) days from the date set forth below.¹ Upon receipt of the initial partial filing fee, the court, as required by the PLRA, will order the agency having custody of Plaintiff to make monthly withdrawals from Plaintiff's inmate account and forward them to the court until the balance of the full filing fee is paid.
3. Plaintiff is responsible for timely payment of the initial partial filing fee. **Plaintiff is notified that the Clerk's Office no longer accepts cash as a form of payment at any office within the Eastern District of Texas. Only checks or credit card payments will be accepted.** If payment will be made from Plaintiff's inmate trust account, Plaintiff shall execute all consents

¹ The average monthly deposit into Plaintiff's inmate trust account during the preceding six month period was \$19.18. Twenty percent of \$19.18 is \$3.87.

and other documents required by the agency having custody of Plaintiff to authorize the necessary withdrawals from Plaintiff's inmate account.

4. Failure to pay the initial partial filing fee or to show that Plaintiff has insufficient assets or means to pay the initial partial filing fee within 30 days may result in dismissal of Plaintiff's Complaint without further notice.

SIGNED this the 13th day of March, 2026.



Christine L Stetson
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**Additional material
from this filing is
available in the
Clerk's Office.**