

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**FILED**  
NOV - 8 2010  
Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy  
Courts for the District of Columbia

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Slovinc,

Plaintiff,

v.

District of Columbia Dep't of  
Employment Services,

Defendant.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Civil Action No.

**10 1918**

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This matter is before the Court on its initial review of plaintiff's *pro se* complaint and application for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The Court will grant the *in forma pauperis* application and dismiss the case because the complaint fails to meet the minimal pleading requirements of Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

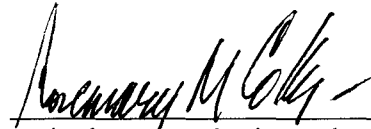
*Pro se* litigants must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *Jarrell v. Tisch*, 656 F. Supp. 237, 239 (D.D.C. 1987). Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires complaints to contain "(1) a short and plain statement of the grounds for the court's jurisdiction [and] (2) a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a); *see Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1950 (2009); *Ciralsky v. CIA*, 355 F.3d 661, 668-71 (D.C. Cir. 2004). The Rule 8 standard ensures that defendants receive fair notice of the claim being asserted so that they can prepare a responsive answer and an adequate defense and determine whether the doctrine of *res judicata* applies. *Brown v. Califano*, 75 F.R.D. 497, 498 (D.D.C. 1977).

-11-

3

In what has been liberally construed as a complaint, plaintiff, a District of Columbia resident, sues a District of Columbia entity – the Department of Employment Services -- that presumably may not be sued in its own name. *See Braxton v. Nat'l Capital Hous. Auth.*, 396 A.2d 215, 216 (D.C. 1978) (“Cases in this jurisdiction have consistently found that bodies within the District of Columbia government are not suable as separate entities.”) (citations omitted). In any event, plaintiff’s submission, captioned “Call for mediation, emergency hearing by Nov. 3 or 4,” provides no notice of a claim or the basis of this Court’s jurisdiction. A separate Order of dismissal accompanies this Memorandum Opinion.

Date: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
United States District Judge