

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FILED

JAN 20 2012

Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy
Courts for the District of Columbia

DEBORAH DIANE FLETCHER,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
U.S. POST OFFICE,)
)
Defendant.)

Civil Action No. **12 0089**

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This matter comes before the court on review of plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and *pro se* civil complaint. The court will grant the application, and dismiss the complaint.

The Court has reviewed plaintiff's complaint, keeping in mind that complaints filed by *pro se* litigants are held to less stringent standards than those applied to formal pleadings drafted by lawyers. *See Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972). Even *pro se* litigants, however, 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 that a complaint contain a short and plain statement of the grounds upon which the court's jurisdiction depends, a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and a demand for judgment for the relief the pleader seeks. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). The purpose of the minimum standard of Rule 8 is to give fair notice to the defendants of the claim being asserted, sufficient to prepare a responsive answer, to prepare an adequate defense and to determine whether the

doctrine of *res judicata* applies. *Brown v. Califano*, 75 F.R.D. 497, 498 (D.D.C. 1977).

Plaintiff alleges that she “had put in an investigation with the Defendant, of her mail, and did not get any reapy [sic] back.” Compl. at 2. She “believe[s] that mail fault [sic] has been going on for . . . years” in Miami, Orlando and Maryland, *id.*, and she charges defendant “with taken [sic] part in mail fault [sic] and prejudice.” *Id.* at 3.

The complaint neither includes a short and plain statement of a claim showing plaintiff’s entitlement to relief nor gives fair notice to defendant of the claim asserted. As drafted, the complaint fails to comply with Rule 8(a), and, therefore, it will be dismissed.

An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is issued separately.

DATE:

Jan. 13, 2012


United States District Judge