

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FILED

APR 19 2012

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

DAVIS SMITH,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE NBC NEWS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. **12 0619**

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's complaint is so disorganized that the Court cannot discern a viable claim within this Court's jurisdiction, or identify a clear statement showing plaintiff's entitlement to the relief he seeks. Accordingly, the Court will dismiss the complaint without prejudice. An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is issued separately.

DATE: April 14, 2012

Colleen Kollar-Kotelly
United States District Judge