

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Joanne Edmonds Jackson,

Plaintiff,

v.

United States of America,

Defendant.

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Case: 1:15-cv-01819 F Deck
Assigned To : Unassigned
Assign. Date : 10/26/2015
Description: Pro Se Gen. Civil

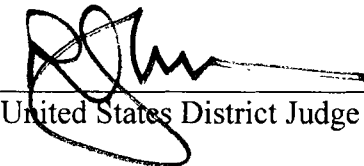
MEMORANDUM OPINION

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*, 556 U.S. 662, 678-79 (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).

Plaintiff is a resident of Temple Hills, Maryland, suing the United States. She seeks \$200 million for defamation of character, but the wide-ranging narrative comprising the complaint fails to provide adequate notice of a defamation claim. In addition, it is unknown whether plaintiff has pursued, let alone exhausted, her administrative remedies under the Federal Tort Claims Act by “first present[ing] the claim to the appropriate Federal agency. . . .” 28 U.S.C. § 2675. And the FTCA’s exhaustion requirement is jurisdictional. *See Abdurrahman v. Engstrom*, 168 Fed.Appx. 445, 445 (D.C. Cir. 2005) (per curiam) (affirming the district court’s dismissal of unexhausted FTCA claim “for lack of subject matter jurisdiction”); *accord Simpkins v. District of Columbia Gov’t*, 108 F.3d 366, 371 (D.C. Cir. 2007). Hence, this case will be dismissed. A separate order accompanies this Memorandum Opinion.

Date: October 21st, 2015


United States District Judge