

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MARK ELLIOTT FREEMAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOHN LEE SWIFT,

Defendant.

Case: 1:17-cv-00044

Assigned To : Unassigned

Assign. Date : 1/10/2017

Description: Pro Se Gen. Civil (F Deck)

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 claims 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).

In a word, the complaint is unintelligible. It neither articulates a cognizable legal claim nor demands any particular relief. As drafted, the complaint fails to meet the standard set forth in Rule 8(a), and therefore, the complaint must be dismissed. An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is issued separately.

DATE:

1/9/2017

Bert A. Howell
United States District Judge