

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FILED

NOV 17 2017

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

Stanley Jerome Baker,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) Civil Action No. 17-2270 (UNA)
)
)
Cornerstone Housing *et al.*,)
)
Defendants.)

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 resides in Montgomery, Alabama, apparently at the housing complex he is suing. *See* Compl. Caption. The only other named defendant is the District of Columbia Housing Authority. *See id.* Plaintiff mentions “[l]osses of property in value of \$100,000 . . . Defamation of Character in the amount of 1,000,000,000 dollars[,] and attempt to murder and bodily injuries[.]” Compl. at 2. Those cryptic statements fail to provide any notice of a claim and the basis of federal court jurisdiction. Hence, this case will be dismissed. A separate order accompanies this Memorandum Opinion.

Date: November 16th, 2017


United States District Judge