

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FILED

OCT 24 2018

Clerk, U.S. District and  
Bankruptcy Courts

Kenneth Wayne Lewis,

Plaintiff,

v.

United States Department of Justice *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 18-2322 (UNA)

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). "A confused and rambling narrative of charges and conclusions . . . does not comply with the requirements of Rule 8." *Cheeks v. Fort Myer Constr. Corp.*, 71 F. Supp. 3d 163, 169 (D.D.C. 2014) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted).

Plaintiff is a prisoner at the Federal Correctional Institution in Fort Dix, New Jersey. His complaint refers to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12 and 55, the Privacy Act, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, other legal authority, and demands for millions of dollars in damages. Missing from the complaint is a short and plain statement showing that plaintiff is entitled to relief of any kind. As drafted, plaintiff's complaint fails to provide any notice of a claim and the basis of jurisdiction, and it will be dismissed. A separate order accompanies this Memorandum Opinion.

Date: October 23, 2018



United States District Judge