

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FILED

DEC 03 2018

Clerk, U.S. District and
Bankruptcy Courts

EBORAH DIANE FLETCHER,

Plaintiff,

v.

DONNELL,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 1:18-cv-02461 (UNA)

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This matter is before the Court on its initial review of plaintiff's *pro se* complaint ("Compl.") 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. The motion for restraining order will be denied as moot.

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

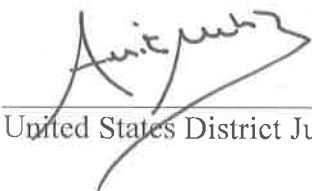
comply with the requirements of Rule 8.” *Cheeks v. Fort Myer Constr. Corp.*, 71 F. Supp. 3d 163, 169 (D.D.C. 2014) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted).

Plaintiff sues a single defendant, only known as “Donnell.” Compl. at 1, 2. The complaint is far from a model in clarity, however, plaintiff seems to allege that defendant has assaulted her in the past. *Id.* at 2–3. She also alleges that defendant stole from her and that he has kidnapped and withheld her children from her. *Id.* Plaintiff requests a temporary restraining order against defendant, as well as “customary” of her children and an award of child support. *Id.* at 4.

The sweeping and disjointed allegations comprising the complaint fail to provide adequate notice of a claim. The complaint also fails to set forth allegations with respect to this Court’s jurisdiction over plaintiff’s entitlement to relief or a valid basis for any award of damages. The causes of action are largely undefined. As drafted, the complaint fails to meet the minimum pleading standard set forth in Rule 8(a). Therefore, the Court will grant plaintiff’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and will dismiss the complaint. An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is issued separately.

Date: November 3, 2018

Donnell


United States District Judge