

FILED

OCT. 8, 2021

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

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

SHAUN RUSHING,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.) Civil Action No. 21-01944 (UNA)
)
 STATE OF MISSOURI,)
)
 Defendant.)

MEMORANDUM OPINION

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 such that they can prepare a responsive answer, prepare 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 alleges that, in 1994, he was wrongfully searched, arrested, and charged with an unspecified criminal offense in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. For these alleged violations, plaintiff demands an award of \$110 trillion from the State of Missouri for each of three counts.

As drafted, plaintiff's *pro se* complaint fails to comply with the minimal pleading standard set forth in Rule 8(a). There are far too few facts alleged to state a viable legal claim, and certainly too few facts to show an entitlement to an enormous damages award. Furthermore, the complaint fails to state a basis for this Court's jurisdiction. Therefore, the Court will dismiss the complaint without prejudice and will grant the application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is issued separately.

DATE: October 8, 2021



CARL J. NICHOLS
United States District Judge