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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 09-cv-01769-BNB

JERRY L. MASKE,

Plaintiff,

v.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY OFFICE OF CLERK AND RECORDER,

Defendant.

FILED  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF COLORADO

SEP 03 2009

GREGORY C. LANGHAM  
CLERK

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ORDER OF DISMISSAL

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Plaintiff Jerry L. Maske currently resides in Aurora, Colorado. Mr. Maske initiated this action by filing a *pro se* Complaint. The Court must construe the Complaint liberally because Mr. Maske is a *pro se* litigant. *See Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520-21 (1972); *Hall v. Bellmon*, 935 F.2d 1106, 1110 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991). If a complaint reasonably can be read “to state a valid claim on which the plaintiff could prevail, [the Court] should do so despite the plaintiff’s failure to cite proper legal authority, his confusion of various legal theories, his poor syntax and sentence construction, or his unfamiliarity with pleading requirements.” *Hall*, 935 F.2d at 1110. Nonetheless, even though the Court must construe Mr. Maske’s pleadings liberally, the pleadings must follow the rules of federal civil procedure. *See Ogden v. San Juan County*, 32 F.3d 452, 455 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1994), *cert denied*, 513 U.S. 1090 (1995). For the reasons stated below, the action will be dismissed.

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The Court has reviewed the Complaint and finds that Mr. Maske is asserting jurisdiction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961–1968, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). Section 1964(c) provides that:

Any person injured in his business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962 of this chapter may sue therefor in any appropriate United States district court and shall recover threefold the damages he sustains and the cost of the suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee . . . .

The four elements of a RICO claim are: (1) conduct; (2) of an enterprise; (3) through a pattern; (4) of racketeering activity. *Sedima, S.P.R.L. v. Imrex Co., Inc.*, 473, U.S. 479, 496 (1985). The plaintiff in a RICO action must allege each of these four elements in order to state a proper claim under § 1962(c). *Id.* Further, the failure to establish any of these elements is fatal to the plaintiff's RICO claim. *Rae v. Union Bank*, 725 F.2d 478, 480-81 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1984).

Mr. Maske has failed to satisfy any of the four elements of a RICO claim. He has failed to plead any of the crimes identified by 18 U.S.C. § 1961 that constitute "racketeering activity" which includes, "any act or threat involving murder, kidnapping, gambling, arson, robbery, bribery, extortion, dealing in obscene matter, or dealing in a controlled substance or listed chemical . . . ." *See* § 1961(1)(A).

Further, Mr. Maske has failed to allege adequately a "pattern of racketeering activity" because he has failed to allege that there was a crime which involved "racketeering activity," as defined under 18 U.S.C. § 1961(1). Mr. Maske also has failed to allege adequately that there is any "enterprise," as defined by 18 U.S.C.

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§ 1961(4), because he has not alleged an “association” between Defendant and others for the purpose of conducting a racketeering activity.

Construed liberally, Mr. Maske is asserting that Defendant has conspired against him in extorting his money. His mere conclusory allegation of “extortion in the amount of \$1,181.06,” however, does not state a RICO claim or meet the requirements set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 8 for stating a claim for relief in a federal court.

The Court further notes that since March 18, 2009, Mr. Maske has filed at least thirty-three cases in this Court. Seven of the thirty-three cases were filed on March 18, 2009. Subsequent to those seven cases being dismissed, Mr. Maske filed new actions in which he named the same defendants and asserted the same claims against them, but he identified a different basis for this Court’s jurisdiction.

Mr. Maske has filed three cases, including this one, against the Arapahoe County Office of Clerk and Recorder. ***See Maske v. Arapahoe County Office of the Clerk and Recorder***, No. 09-cv-01231-ZLW (D. Colo. July 16, 2009); ***see Maske v. Arapahoe County Office of the Clerk and Recorder***, No. 09-cv-00580-ZLW (D. Colo. May 15, 2009). In each of the three cases, Mr. Maske is challenging a garnishment of his bank account by Arapahoe County for a check that he issued for payment to Arapahoe County that was returned for insufficient funds. In Case No. 09-cv-00580-ZLW, Mr. Maske asserted jurisdiction for his claim pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. In Case No. 09-cv-01231-ZLW, Mr. Maske merely stated “personal property-fraud” for the basis of jurisdiction in this Court. Both of the

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previous actions were dismissed for failure to comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 8, because Mr. Maske failed to state proper grounds for this Court's jurisdiction.

The Court also notes that Mr. Maske, in each of his original seven cases, submitted a Letter to the Court in which he states that his mentor, Dale J. Crow, J.D., Ph.D., who is a faculty member at the University of Phoenix, was a practicing attorney and now is advising him in his civil lawsuits. That advice notwithstanding, Mr. Maske's claims regarding the garnishment of his bank account now are abusive and malicious and an improper use of judicial resources. The Court finds no jurisdictional basis for Mr. Maske's claims under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961–1968. The instant action is a repeated attempt to bring the same claim before the Court that was asserted and dismissed in Case Nos. 09-cv-00580-ZLW and 09-cv-01231-ZLW. Mr. Maske is engaged in abusive litigation tactics, which will not be tolerated. This Complaint and action, therefore, will be dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i). Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the Complaint and action are dismissed with prejudice pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

DATED at Denver, Colorado, this 2 day of Sept., 2009.

BY THE COURT:

  
ZITA L. WEINSHIENK, Senior Judge  
United States District Court

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Civil Action No. 09-cv-01769-BNB

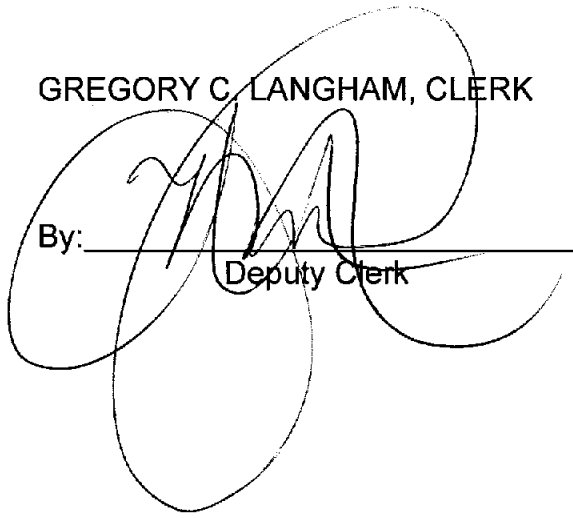
Jerry Maske  
2705 Danube Way, Unit 101  
Aurora, CO 80013

I hereby certify that I have mailed a copy of the **ORDER AND JUDGMENT** to the  
above-named individuals on 9/3/09

GREGORY C. LANGHAM, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy Clerk

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Langham', is written over the signature line and extends upwards and to the right.