

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

SAMSON WOUBETU,)	
)	
<i>Plaintiff,</i>)	
)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 23-0945 (UNA)
)	
PAT HANDY LEGACY SHELTER, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
<i>Defendants.</i>)	

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This matter is before the Court on consideration of plaintiff’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and *pro se* complaint. The Court grants the application and, for the reasons discussed below, the dismisses the complaint.

A *pro se* litigant’s pleading is held to less stringent standards than would be applied to a formal pleading drafted by lawyer. *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 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 claim being asserted, sufficient to prepare a responsive answer, to prepare an adequate defense, and to determine whether the doctrine of *res judicata* applies. *Brown v. Califano*, 75 F.R.D. 497, 498 (D.D.C. 1977).

Plaintiff, who currently resides at a homeless shelter, alleges that another resident stole his pants as well as the cash and keys in the pockets. *See* Compl. at 1. He further alleges that shelter staff refused to help him with this incident and another incident where plaintiff's Bible, books, jacket and papers were stolen. *See id.* Missing from the complaint is a statement establishing a basis for this Court's jurisdiction. This defect, along with the complaint's failure make a clear statement of claim and demand for relief, warrant dismissal of the complaint for failure to comply with the minimum pleading standard set forth in Rule 8(a).

A separate order will issue.

DATE: April 20, 2023

/s/
TANYA S. CHUTKAN
United States District Judge