

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

MICHAEL L. WAGNER,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. 23cv1468 (UNA)
	)	
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, <i>et al.</i> ,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

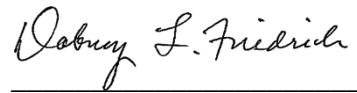
**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

This matter is before the Court on review of plaintiff’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and *pro se* complaint. The Court GRANTS plaintiff’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 2) and for the reasons discussed below, DISMISSES the complaint (ECF No. 1) and this civil action without prejudice.

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 demands compensation totaling \$20 million without setting forth a short and plain statement of his entitlement to relief. Instead, the complaint cursorily jumps from topic to topic, to include, it appears, work requirements for receipt of benefits from the government and an alleged conspiracy to deprive him of food stamps. As drafted, plaintiff's complaint fails to meet the minimal pleading standard set forth in Rule 8(a). The Court will dismiss the complaint and this civil action without prejudice. An Order is issued separately.

DATE: May 26, 2023



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DABNEY L. FRIEDRICH  
United States District Judge