

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

KENNETH DOYLE,	)	CASE NO. 1:17 CV 2583
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	JUDGE DAN AARON POLSTER
	)	
v.	)	
	)	<u>MEMORANDUM OF OPINION</u>
ATHAN G. SARANTOPOLOUS, et al.,	)	<u>AND ORDER</u>
	)	
Defendants.	)	

On December 12, 2017, plaintiff *pro se* Kenneth Doyle filed this *in forma pauperis* action against defendants Athan G. Sarantopolous and Despina Sarantopolous. Plaintiff's Amended Complaint is unclear, but he appears to allege defendants promised to convey real property to him in return for his labor, but did not honor their promise. He asserts his civil rights were violated, that he was subjected to peonage in violation of 18 U.S.C. Chapter 77, and that defendants are liable for breach of contract.

Although *pro se* pleadings are liberally construed, *Boag v. MacDougall*, 454 U.S. 364, 365 (1982) (per curiam), the district court is required to dismiss an action under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e) if it fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, or if it lacks an arguable basis in law or fact.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> An *in forma pauperis* claim may be dismissed *sua sponte*, without prior notice to the plaintiff and without service of process on the defendant, if the court explicitly states that it is invoking section 1915(e) [formerly 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d)] and is dismissing the claim for one of the reasons set forth in the statute. *Chase Manhattan Mortg. Corp. v. Smith*, 507 F.3d 910, 915 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2007); *Gibson v. R.G. Smith Co.*, 915 F.2d 260, 261 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990); *Harris v.*

*Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319 (1989); *Hill v. Lappin*, 630 F.3d 468, 470 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2010).

A cause of action fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted when it lacks “plausibility in the complaint.” *Bell At. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 564 (2007). A pleading must contain a “short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 677-78 (2009). The factual allegations in the pleading must be sufficient to raise the right to relief above the speculative level on the assumption that all the allegations in the complaint are true. *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555. The plaintiff is not required to include detailed factual allegations, but must provide more than “an unadorned, the-defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678 (2009). A pleading that offers legal conclusions or a simple recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not meet this pleading standard. *Id.*

Even construing the Complaint liberally in a light most favorable to the plaintiff, *Brand v. Motley*, 526 F.3d 921, 924 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008), it does not contain allegations reasonably suggesting he might have a valid federal claim against the named defendants. *See, Lillard v. Shelby County Bd. of Educ.*, 76 F.3d 716 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1996)(court not required to accept summary allegations or unwarranted legal conclusions in determining whether complaint states a claim for relief). Further, the complaint does not contain diversity of citizenship allegations that could provide jurisdiction over plaintiff’s breach of contract claim.

Accordingly, the request to proceed *in forma pauperis* is granted, and this action is dismissed under section 1915(e). The court certifies, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3), that an appeal from this decision could not be taken in good faith.

s/Dan Aaron Polster      2/9/2018  
DAN AARON POLSTER  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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*Johnson*, 784 F.2d 222, 224 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1986).