IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

ROBERT W. JOHNSON,

:

Plaintiff,

:

v.

: Civil Action No. 23-961-CFC

FACEBOOK, et al.

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Defendants.

:

Robert W. Johnson, Buffalo, New York. Pro Se Plaintiff.

MEMORANDUM OPINION

May 28, 2024 Wilmington, Delaware Colm F. Comdl CONNOLLY, Chief Judge:

Plaintiff Robert W. Johnson appears *pro se* and has been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (D.I. 8) The Court proceeds to screen the Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff's Complaint itself contains essentially no information, besides listing over twenty well-known companies and individuals as Defendants, asserting that Defendants committed identity theft, fraud, constitutional violations, and RICO violations, and requesting \$100 million in damages and 100% ownership of all of Defendants' assets.

II. SCREENING OF COMPLAINT

A federal court may properly dismiss an action *sua sponte* under the screening provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) if "the action is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief." *Ball v. Famiglio*, 726 F.3d 448, 452 (3d Cir. 2013) (quotation marks omitted); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) (*in forma pauperis* actions). The Court must accept all factual allegations in a complaint as true and take them in the light most favorable to a *pro se* plaintiff. *See Phillips v. County of Allegheny*, 515 F.3d 224, 229 (3d Cir. 2008). Because Plaintiff proceeds *pro se*, his pleading is liberally construed and his

Complaint, "however inartfully pleaded, must be held to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers." *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007).

A complaint is not automatically frivolous because it fails to state a claim. See Dooley v. Wetzel, 957 F.3d. 366, 374 (3d Cir. 2020). Rather, a claim is deemed frivolous only where it relies on an "indisputably meritless legal theory" or a 'clearly baseless' or 'fantastic or delusional' factual scenario." Id.

The legal standard for dismissing a complaint for failure to state a claim pursuant to § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii) is identical to the legal standard used when ruling on Rule 12(b)(6) motions. *Tourscher v. McCullough*, 184 F.3d 236, 240 (3d Cir. 1999). A well-pleaded complaint must contain more than mere labels and conclusions. *See Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662 (2009); *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544 (2007). A plaintiff must plead facts sufficient to show that a claim has substantive plausibility. *See Johnson v. City of Shelby*, 574 U.S. 10, 12 (2014) (per curiam). A complaint may not be dismissed, however, for imperfect statements of the legal theory supporting the claim asserted. *See id.* at 11.

A court reviewing the sufficiency of a complaint must take three steps:

(1) take note of the elements the plaintiff must plead to state a claim; (2) identify allegations that, because they are no more than conclusions, are not entitled to the

assumption of truth; and (3) when there are well-pleaded factual allegations, assume their veracity and then determine whether they plausibly give rise to an entitlement to relief. *Connelly v. Lane Constr. Corp.*, 809 F.3d 780, 787 (3d Cir. 2016). Elements are sufficiently alleged when the facts in the complaint "show" that the plaintiff is entitled to relief. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 679 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2)). Deciding whether a claim is plausible will be a "context-specific task that requires the reviewing court to draw on its judicial experience and common sense." *Id.*

Plaintiff's Complaint is wholly frivolous and will be dismissed.

Amendment is futile.

III. CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the Court will dismiss the Complaint as frivolous pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

This Court will issue an Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

ROBERT W. JOHNSON,

Plaintiff,

: Civil Action No. 23-961-CFC ٧.

FACEBOOK, et al.

Defendants.

ORDER

At Wilmington on this Twenty-eighth day of May in 2024, for the reasons set forth in the Memorandum Opinion issued this date;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- The Complaint is **DISMISSED** pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i). Amendment is futile.
 - The Clerk of Court is directed to mark this case CLOSED. 2.

Colm F. ComMD
Chief Judge