

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF
MASSACHUSETTS

**Apostle Dr. Ositadimma Israel Eagle Ekenedili Chukwu, Ph.D. v. Mr.
John's Food Company Ltd.**

Chukwu · No. 24-cv-11758-JEK · Decided February 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts denied four pro se plaintiff submissions docketed as motions because they failed to comply with Local Rule 7.1(a)'s good-faith conferral and certification requirement. The court permitted renewal only with compliance, warned that future noncompliant motions would be summarily denied, and advised the parties regarding objections under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(a).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Paul G. Levenson, U.S. Magistrate Judge
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts
DECIDED	February 10, 2026
DOCKET	24-cv-11758-JEK
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered four pro se submissions by Plaintiff, docketed as motions, and denied them for failure to comply with Local Rule 7.1(a)'s good-faith conferral and certification requirement.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(a), a district judge may set aside a magistrate judge's order if it is clearly erroneous or contrary to law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order; precedential status unknown
PARTIES	Apostle Dr. Ositadimma Israel Eagle Ekenedili Chukwu, Ph.D. v. Mr. John's Food Company Ltd.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- pleadings
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should deny Plaintiff's motions for failure to comply with Local Rule 7.1(a)'s requirement that the moving party certify a good-faith effort to confer and resolve or narrow the issues.
2. Whether Plaintiff's pro se status excused compliance with the court's procedural rules.
3. What restrictions should govern any future motions or submissions by Plaintiff.

HOLDINGS

1. Although pro se filings are entitled to a liberal reading, a pro se litigant is not excused from complying with the court's procedural and substantive rules.
2. The court may deny motions filed without the certification required by Local Rule 7.1(a), and Plaintiff's Motions 72, 75, 81, and 82 were denied on that basis.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Plaintiff's pro se status does not absolve him of having to comply with this Court's rules of procedure."

"In light of Plaintiff's failure to comply with Local Rule 7.1(a), I hereby DENY Plaintiff's Motions Nos. 72, 75, 81, and 82." (Conclusion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, proceeding pro se, filed four submissions that were docketed as motions. Despite prior instructions concerning Local Rule 7.1(a), he did not certify that he had conferred with Defendant and attempted in good faith to resolve or narrow the issues. The submissions also failed to comply with the required form and format for motions and were so opaque and filled with extraneous material that the court could not determine what relief Plaintiff sought or the legal or factual basis for it.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed submissions docketed as Motions 72, 75, 81, and 82. The court had previously instructed Plaintiff regarding the requirements of Local Rule 7.1(a), but Plaintiff filed the motions without the required certification and without complying with the rule's formatting requirements. The court denied the motions and stated that they could be renewed only if Plaintiff complied with Local Rule 7.1(a).

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Rodi v. S. New England Sch. of Law*, 389 F.3d 5, 13 (1st Cir. 2004)

- Ahmed v. Rosenblatt, 118 F.3d 886, 890 (1st Cir. 1997)
- Burnham v. Wyeth Labs. Inc., 348 F. Supp. 3d 109, 111 (D. Mass. 2018)
- Rounds v. United States Department of Justice, 626 F. Supp. 3d 510, 511-12 (D. Mass. 2022)
- Phinney v. Wentworth Douglas Hosp., 199 F.3d 1, 4 (1st Cir. 1999)
- Sunview Condo. Ass'n v. Flexel Int'l, Ltd., 116 F.3d 962, 964-65 (1st Cir. 1997)

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