



defendant points out that the motion for judgment fails to state the exact words of the alleged defamation.

The federal rules contemplate notice pleading. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). Nevertheless, it has been held that in a defamation action, a complaint ought to specify the defamatory statements, even under the liberal federal pleading regime. *See Kloth v. Citibank*, 33 F. Supp. 2d 115, 121 (D. Conn. 1998).

Rather than dismiss this action, I will require the plaintiff to file a more definite statement of his claim. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(e); *Fikes v. City of Daphne*, 79 F.3d 1079, 1083 n.6 (11th Cir. 1996) (district court has power to order more definite statement sua sponte in order to narrow the issues).

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The plaintiff must file with the court within twenty days from the date of entry of this opinion and order a written statement of his claim in which he sets forth with particularity the words of the defamatory statements he complains about;
2. If such a statement is not filed within the time limit set forth above, this case may be dismissed without further notice;
3. The motion to dismiss (Doc. No. 2) is denied; and

4. The defendant is granted leave to further move or plead to the complaint and the more definite statement no later than twenty days following service of the more definite statement ordered above.

ENTER: August 8, 2002

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United States District Judge