

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

Gary Doporto v. Attorney General of the State of New Mexico, et al.

Doporto · No. No. 25-cv-0766-KWR-KBM · Decided December 11, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico reviews Gary Doporto’s habeas petition challenging a state probation-revocation order and the calculation of his sentence. The court grants in forma pauperis status and orders Doporto to show cause within 30 days why the petition should not be dismissed without prejudice for failure to exhaust state remedies.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of New Mexico
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kea W. Riggs
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of New Mexico
DECIDED	December 11, 2025
DOCKET	No. 25-cv-0766-KWR-KBM
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The petitioner filed a federal habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging a state probation-revocation sentence and, separately, the calculation and execution of his state sentence. The district court screened the petition sua sponte under Habeas Corpus Rule 4 and ordered the petitioner to show cause why the petition should not be dismissed without prejudice for failure to exhaust state remedies.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Sua sponte screening under Habeas Corpus Rule 4; the court reviews whether the petition and attached exhibits plainly show that the petitioner is not entitled to relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district-court memorandum opinion and order with no reported citation.
PARTIES	Gary Doporto v. Attorney General of the State of New Mexico, et al.

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- habeas corpus
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal habeas corpus

Post-conviction relief

Criminal procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the federal habeas petition should be dismissed or otherwise addressed after screening because Doporto failed to exhaust available state remedies.
2. Whether Doporto's challenge to the 2021 probation-revocation sentence is properly brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 and whether his challenge to sentence calculation and earned-credit determinations is properly construed under 28 U.S.C. § 2241.
3. Whether the court should permit a stay pending exhaustion if Doporto can satisfy the applicable good-cause, potential-merit, and anti-dilatory-litigation factors.

HOLDINGS

1. A habeas petitioner generally must exhaust available state remedies before obtaining federal habeas relief, and the requirement applies to petitions brought under both 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and § 2254.
2. A challenge to a state conviction or sentence is properly brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2254, while a challenge to the execution of a sentence, including sentence-credit calculations, is properly construed under 28 U.S.C. § 2241.
3. A petitioner seeking a stay of an unexhausted habeas proceeding must show good cause for the failure to exhaust, that the unexhausted claims are potentially meritorious, and that the petitioner has not engaged in intentionally dilatory litigation tactics.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Habeas Corpus Rule 4 requires a sua sponte review of habeas petitions.” (2)

“ “[A] habeas petitioner is generally required to exhaust state remedies” before obtaining relief.” (2)

“For these reasons, the Court will require Petitioner to show cause in writing why his Petition should not be summarily dismissed for failing to exhaust state remedies.” (3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In 2015, Doporto pleaded guilty in New Mexico state court to trafficking a controlled substance and received a nine-year sentence, with six and a half years suspended, a habitual-offender enhancement, and five years of probation. After his initial incarceration, he was arrested several times for probation violations, and the state court revoked probation in 2018 and again in 2021. Doporto remains incarcerated under the December 20, 2021 revocation order. He did not appeal the state judgment or revocation orders, seek review in the New Mexico Supreme Court, or file a state habeas petition.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Doporto pleaded guilty in New Mexico state court to trafficking a controlled substance and later received probation revocations in 2018 and 2021. He did not appeal the state criminal judgment or revocation orders and

did not seek review in the New Mexico Supreme Court or file a state habeas petition. He filed this federal petition on August 11, 2025. The district court granted in forma pauperis status, screened the petition, and issued a thirty-day show-cause order rather than immediately dismissing the action.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Mitchell v. Dowling, 672 Fed. App’x 792, 794 (10th Cir. 2016)
- McIntosh v. U.S. Parole Comm’n, 115 F.3d 809, 811-12 (10th Cir. 1997)
- Yellowbear v. Wyoming Att’y Gen., 525 F.3d 921, 924 (10th Cir. 2008)
- Montez v. McKinna, 208 F.3d 862, 866 (10th Cir. 2000)
- Dever v. Kansas State Penitentiary, 36 F.3d 1531, 1534 (10th Cir. 1994)
- Magar v. Parker, 490 F.3d 816, 818 (10th Cir. 2007)
- United States v. Mitchell, 518 F.3d 740, 746 n.8 (10th Cir. 2008)
- Doe v. Jones, 762 F.3d 1174, 1181 (10th Cir. 2014)
- Rhines v. Weber, 544 U.S. 269 (2005)

OPINION

Doporto

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

GARY DOPORTO,
Petitioner, v. No. 25-cv-0766-KWR-KBM
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO, et al, Respondents.

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on Gary Doporto’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (Doc. 1) (Petition). Petitioner challenges a 2021 state revocation order as well as the calculation of his state sentence. Having reviewed the matter sua sponte under Habeas Corpus Rule 4, the Court will require Petitioner to show cause why the Petition should not be summarily dismissed for failure to exhaust state remedies.

BACKGROUND

The following background facts are taken from the Petition and the state criminal docket cited in the Petition, Case No. D-503-CR-2014-284. The state criminal docket is subject to judicial notice. See Mitchell v. Dowling, 672 Fed. App’x 792, 794 (10th Cir. 2016) (Habeas courts may take

“judicial notice of the state-court docket sheet”). In 2015, Petitioner pled guilty to trafficking a controlled substance (narcotics or methamphetamine). See Doc. 1 at 17. The State Trial Court sentenced him nine years imprisonment, with six and a half years suspended. *Id.* (attaching judgment in Case No. D-503- CR-2014-284). The sentence includes a habitual offender enhancement and a five-year term of probation. *Id.* After Petitioner’s initial term of incarceration, he was arrested several times for probation violations. *Id.* at 19, 25 (attaching revocation orders in Case No. D-503-CR-2014-284). The State Trial Court revoked his probation in 2018 and again in 2021. *Id.* Petitioner did not appeal the criminal judgment or any revocation order in Case No. D-503-CR-2014-284. *Id.* at 2; see also Docket Sheet in D-503-CR-2014-284. He is still serving a state sentence pursuant to the most recent Order Revoking Probation, which was entered on December 20, 2021. See Doc. 1 at 25. Petitioner filed the instant Petition on August 11, 2025. See Doc. 1. He argues the 2021 revocation order imposed an excessive sentence, in light of the original judgment. *Id.* at 5. This argument is properly raised under § 2254, which governs challenges to state convictions/sentences. See *McIntosh v. U.S. Parole Comm’n*, 115 F.3d 809, 811-12 (10th Cir. 1997). Petitioner also argues prison officials miscalculated his sentence and failed to award earned credits. See Doc. 1 at 15-16. This argument is properly construed under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. *Yellowbear v. Wyoming Att’y Gen.*, 525 F.3d 921, 924 (10th Cir. 2008) (“Section § 2241 is a vehicle ... for attacking the execution of a sentence.”). Because none of the claims are exhausted, as set forth below, the Court will address that threshold issue before determining whether Petitioner can seek different types of habeas relief in one proceeding. Petitioner filed a Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (Doc. 2) after submitting the Petition, which reflects he cannot afford to prepay the \$5.00 habeas filing fee. The Court will therefore grant the Motion and screen the Petition under Habeas Corpus Rule 4.

DISCUSSION

Habeas Corpus Rule 4 requires a sua sponte review of habeas petitions. Courts review each 2 claim to determine whether the petitioner’s detention violates federal law. See 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c) (3). “If it plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that the moving party is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge must dismiss the petition.” Habeas Corpus Rule 4(b). “If the petition is not dismissed, the judge must order ... an answer.” *Id.* “[A] habeas petitioner is generally required to exhaust state remedies” before obtaining relief. *Montez v. McKinna*, 208 F.3d 862, 866 (10th Cir. 2000). This requirement applies regardless of “whether [the petitioner’s] action is brought under § 2241 or § 2254.” *Id.* “The exhaustion requirement is satisfied if the federal issue has been properly presented to the highest state court, either by direct review of the conviction or in a postconviction attack.” *Dever v. Kansas State Penitentiary*, 36 F.3d 1531, 1534 (10th Cir. 1994). In New Mexico, this means the petitioner must present all claims to the New Mexico Supreme Court (NMSC) through a direct appeal or a state habeas petition. “The exhaustion requirement can only be excused in the “absence of available State corrective process or because circumstances exist that render such process ineffective to protect the rights of the

applicant.” *Magar v. Parker*, 490 F.3d 816, 818 (10th Cir. 2007). “Sua sponte consideration of exhaustion of state remedies ... is explicitly permitted” where the failure to exhaust appears on the face of the petition. *United States v. Mitchell*, 518 F.3d 740, 746 n.8 (10th Cir. 2008). The Petition here clearly reflects that Petitioner did not present his federal claims to the NMSC. The Petition states Petitioner did not appeal the criminal Judgment, seek review by the highest state court, or file any state habeas petitions. See Doc. 1 at 2-5. Under each ground for relief, he also checked “no” in response to the questions regarding exhaustion. *Id.* at 5-6. The Secured Odyssey Public Access (SOPA) system, which tracks all New Mexico trial court and 3 appellate filings, confirms the failure to exhaust. See <https://securecourtcasessystem.nmcourts.gov/>. The SOPA system reflects that Petitioner has not filed any appeal with the NMSC. For these reasons, the Court will require Petitioner to show cause in writing why his Petition should not be summarily dismissed for failing to exhaust state remedies. If Petitioner seeks to stay the proceeding, he must show “good cause for his failure to exhaust, [that] his unexhausted claims are potentially meritorious, and” the absence of “intentionally dilatory litigation tactics.” *Doe v. Jones*, 762 F.3d 1174, 1181 (10th Cir. 2014) (the factors set forth in *Rhines v. Weber*, 544 U.S. 269

(2005) – which applies to mixed petitions – are also relevant where there is a total failure to exhaust). The show-cause response is due within thirty (30) days of entry of this ruling. If Petitioner concedes the failure to exhaust, he does not need to respond to this ruling, and he can instead pursue relief by filing a state habeas petition. The failure to respond and overcome the exhaustion requirement will result in dismissal of this case without prejudice to refiling after the state process is complete. IT IS ORDERED that Petitioner’s Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (Doc. 2) is GRANTED; and within thirty (30) days of entry of this ruling, Petitioner must file a response showing cause, if any, why his Petition should not be dismissed for failure to exhaust state remedies. SO ORDERED. ____/S/_____

HON. KEA RIGGS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE