

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS

Arthur Wilson McDaniels v. United States

McDaniels · No. 1:25-CV-234 · Decided December 5, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas adopted the magistrate judge’s report and recommendation and dismissed Arthur Wilson McDaniels’s 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion for want of prosecution. The dismissal was without prejudice to reinstatement upon provision of a current address within 60 days, and the court denied a certificate of appealability.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Marcia A. Crone
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
DECIDED	December 5, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-CV-234
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Movant filed a pro se motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence. The matter was referred to a magistrate judge, who recommended dismissal for want of prosecution. The district court adopted the recommendation and dismissed the action without prejudice.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court reviewed the magistrate judge's report and recommendation and found its factual findings and legal conclusions correct. For a certificate of appealability following a procedural ruling, the movant must show that reasonable jurists would debate both whether the motion states a valid constitutional claim and whether the procedural ruling is correct.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court order with no reported citation
PARTIES	Arthur Wilson McDaniels v. United States of America

TOPICS

federal habeas corpus

post-conviction relief

motions to dismiss

appellate procedure

standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal habeas corpus

Post-conviction relief

Appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should adopt the magistrate judge's recommendation to dismiss the § 2255 action for want of prosecution.
2. Whether McDaniels was entitled to a certificate of appealability after the procedural dismissal.

HOLDINGS

1. The magistrate judge's report and recommendation was adopted, and the action was dismissed for want of prosecution without prejudice.
2. A certificate of appealability was denied because McDaniels failed to make the required substantial showing of the denial of a federal constitutional right or show that reasonable jurists could debate the procedural ruling.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Arthur Wilson McDaniels, a federal inmate proceeding pro se, filed a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The magistrate judge recommended dismissal for want of prosecution, and McDaniels did not provide objections or a current address. The district court adopted the recommendation and permitted reinstatement if McDaniels supplied a current address within sixty days.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The district court referred McDaniels's § 2255 motion to United States Magistrate Judge Christine L. Stetson. The magistrate judge recommended dismissal for want of prosecution, and the parties filed no objections. District Judge Marcia A. Crone adopted the report and recommendation, ordered dismissal without prejudice, allowed reinstatement if McDaniels provided a current address within sixty days, and denied a certificate of appealability.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 483-84 (2000)
- Elizalde v. Dretke, 362 F.3d 323, 328 (5th Cir. 2004)
- Barefoot v. Estelle, 463 U.S. 880, 893 (1982)
- Avila v. Quarterman, 560 F.3d 299, 304 (5th Cir. 2009)

- Miller v. Johnson, 200 F.3d 274, 280-81 (5th Cir. 2000)

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