

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
ILLINOIS

Khan v. Lillard

Khan · No. 3:25-cv-00339-GCS · Decided April 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois denied Khatija Khan’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Khan sought First Step Act time credits for periods spent in administrative detention and on a federal writ, but the court concluded she had not shown successful participation in qualifying evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities during those periods. The matter was dismissed with prejudice and closed.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Gilbert C. Sison
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
DECIDED	April 20, 2026
DOCKET	3:25-cv-00339-GCS
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, challenging the Bureau of Prisons' calculation of First Step Act time credits. The court denied the petition and dismissed the matter with prejudice.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A § 2241 petitioner must show custody in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States. The court reviewed whether the Bureau of Prisons properly calculated and applied First Step Act time credits.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court memorandum
PARTIES	Khatija Khan v. Thomas Lillard, Warden

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- exhaustion of remedies
- administrative law
- statutory interpretation

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Khan was entitled under the First Step Act to 44 days of time credit for periods of administrative detention and custody on a writ.
2. Whether Khan had established successful participation in evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities sufficient to earn the claimed credits.
3. Whether the court needed to resolve whether the Bureau of Prisons' regulations governing the availability of First Step Act time credits conflicted with the governing statute.

HOLDINGS

1. Khan was not entitled to the claimed 44 days of First Step Act time credit because she failed to demonstrate that she successfully participated in evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities during the relevant periods.
2. The court did not need to decide whether the Bureau of Prisons' regulations conflicted with the First Step Act because Khan failed to establish the underlying factual prerequisite of successful participation in qualifying programming or activities.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To be entitled to FSA time credit, Khan had to successfully participate in EBRR programming or PAs during these time frames.” (5)

“Instead, it appears she is seeking FSA time credit simply because she was sentenced and incarcerated.” (5)

“The Court DISMISSES with prejudice this matter.” (6)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Khan was sentenced in the District of Connecticut to 60 months' imprisonment for conspiracy to commit mail fraud and mail fraud, followed by three years of supervised release. She entered Bureau of Prisons custody on April 14, 2023, and was housed at FCI Greenville when she filed her petition. She claimed one day of credit for administrative detention before her sentence commenced and 43 days of credit for a period during which she was on a writ. The court found that she had not shown successful participation in evidence-based recidivism reduction programming or productive activities during either period.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Khan filed a § 2241 petition on March 11, 2025, claiming entitlement to 44 days of First Step Act time credits for periods spent in administrative detention and on a writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum. The court ordered a response, and Respondent opposed the petition. After the parties consented to disposition by the magistrate judge, the court denied the petition, dismissed the action with prejudice, directed entry of judgment, and ordered the case closed.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- United States v. Khan, Case No. 3:19-CR-00314-SRU-2 (D. Conn.)
- Valona v. United States, 138 F.3d 693, 694 (7th Cir. 1998)
- United States v. Wilson, 503 U.S. 329, 335 (1992)
- Richmond v. Scibana, 387 F.3d 602, 604 (7th Cir. 2004)
- Clemente v. Allen, 120 F.3d 703, 705 (7th Cir. 1997) (per curiam)
- Borker v. Bowers, Civil No. 24-10045-LTS, 2024 WL 2186742, at *2 (D. Mass. May 15, 2024)
- Wong v. Warden, No. 4:24-CV-04117-CBK, 2024 WL 4027918, at *2 (D. S.D. Sept. 3, 2024)
- Patel v. Barron, Case No. C23-937-KKE, 2023 WL 6311281, at *5 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 28, 2023)
- Yufenyuy v. Warden, FCI Berlin, 659 F. Supp. 3d 213, 218 (D.N.H. 2023)
- Sharma v. Peters, Case No. 2:24-CV-158-RAH-KFP, 2024 WL 4668135, at *9 (M.D. Ala. Nov. 4, 2024)
- Stevens v. Jacquez, Case No. 3:23-CV-01482-AA, 2024 WL 3200546, at *4 (D. Or. June 25, 2024)
- Solberg v. Eischen, Case No. 23-cv-3568 (ECT/DTS), 2024 WL 3251713, at *2 (D. Minn. May 7, 2024), report and recommendation adopted, 2024 WL 3086630, at *1 (D. Minn. June 21, 2024)
- Dane v. Bayless, Civil Action No. 5:24-CV-157, 2024 WL 5150683, at *3-5 (N.D. W. Va. Nov. 20, 2024), report and recommendation adopted, 2024 WL 5150650 (N.D. W. Va. Dec. 17, 2024)
- Harper v. Warden, FCI Waseca, Case No. 23-cv-2502 (JRL/TNL), 2024 WL 3164981, at *5-6 (D. Minn. May 28, 2024), report and recommendation adopted, 2024 WL 3163730 (D. Minn. June 25, 2024)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
KHATIJA KHAN,)) Petitioner,)) vs.) Civil No. 3:25-cv-00339-GCS) THOMAS LILLARD,
Warden,)) Respondent.) MEMORANDUM & ORDER SISON, Magistrate Judge:
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND On March 11, 2025, Petitioner Khatija Khan, a federal prisoner previously incarcerated at the Federal Prison Camp at FCI Greenville, Illinois (“FCI Greenville”), filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 to challenge the application of time credits under the First Step Act of 2018 (“FSA”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 3632.

(Doc. 1). Specifically, Khan argues she is entitled to 44 days of FSA time credit (1 day of FSA credit while in administrative detention and 43 days of FSA credit while on a federal writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum). (Doc. 1, p. 15). She asks the Court to direct the Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”) to determine she is entitled to FSA credits without regard to where she was housed or her writ status as described in 28 C.F.R. § 523.41(c)(4)(i-iv).

(Doc. 1, p. 8). On July 11, 2025, the Court ordered Respondent to Page 1 of 6 respond to the petition.¹ The Respondent opposes the petition. (Doc. 10). Based on the reasons delineated below, the Court DENIES the petition.

On September 1, 2022, Khan was sentenced to 60-months, for conspiracy to commit mail fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349 and mail fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341. She also received three years of supervised release. See generally *United States v. Khan*, Case No, 3:19-CR-00314-SRU-2 (D. Conn.). Petitioner arrived at the BOP to serve her sentence on April 14, 2023.

(Doc. 10-2, p. 2). At the time she filed her petition, Khan was housed at FCI Greenville. The record reflects Khan transferred from FCI Greenville to a Residential Reentry Center (“RRC”) on July 22, 2025. *Id.* A visit to the BOP website reveals Khan is currently at New York RRM with a release date of July 16, 2026. See BOP, Find an Inmate, <https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc> (last visited March 30, 2026).

DISCUSSION A federal prisoner may seek a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 to challenge the execution of his or her sentence. See, e.g., *Valona v. United States*, 138 F.3d 693, 694 (7th Cir. 1998) (recognizing that a motion seeking relief concerning the execution of a sentence, but not the validity of a conviction, falls under § 2241).

The Attorney General, acting through the BOP, calculates a defendant’s sentence “as an administrative 1 On August 25, 2025, after full consent of the parties, this matter was assigned to the undersigned for disposition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636 and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 73. (Doc. 15). Page 2 of 6 matter when imprisoning the defendant.” *United States v. Wilson*, 503 U.S. 329, 335 (1992).

To obtain a writ of habeas corpus, a prisoner must show that he or she is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States. See 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3). Before seeking relief in federal court, however, a prisoner must exhaust administrative remedies. See, e.g., *Richmond v. Scibana*, 387 F.3d 602, 604 (7th Cir. 2004) (observing that the “common-law exhaustion rule applies to § 2241 actions”); *Clemente v. Allen*, 120 F.3d 703, 705 (7th Cir.

1997) (per curiam) (noting that courts may “review a claim concerning the computation of sentence only after administrative remedies have been exhausted”). First, Petitioner argues she has exhausted all available remedies, (Doc. 1, p. 10), but then she argues if she did not exhaust, such failure may be excused where either the remedies would be futile or unable to afford the petitioner the proper relief.

Id. at p. 12. Here, the Court need not resolve whether Petitioner may be excused from the exhaustion requirement as her claim fails on the merits. Under 18 U.S.C. § 3632(d)(4), eligible prisoners who successfully complete evidence-based recidivism reduction (“EBRR”)

programming or productive activities (“PA”) shall earn time credits at a rate of 10 days for every 30 days of successful participation in EBRR programming or productive activities.

However, a prisoner may not earn time credits for an evidence-based recidivism reduction program completed during official detention prior to the date that the prisoner's sentence commences under Page 3 of 6 18 U.S.C. § 3585(a). See 18 U.S.C. § 3632(d)(4)(B)(ii). Further, a prisoner may not earn time credits while in designation status outside the institution.

See 28 C.F.R. § 523.419(c)(4)(iii). Several courts have found that the BOP’s policy conflicts with the statute. See, e.g., *Borker v. Bowers*, Civil No. 24-10045-LTS, 2024 WL 2186742, at *2 (D. Mass. May 15, 2024) (finding that the regulation is at odds with the plain language of the statute); *Wong v. Warden*, No. 4:24-CV-04117-CBK, 2024 WL 4027918, at *2 (D. S.D.

Sept. 3, 2024) (stating that “in this case the BOP’s final rule for the start date that an inmate may earn FSA Time Credits is contrary to Congress's directive that the BOP is required to ‘provide all prisoners with the opportunity to actively participate in [EBRR] programs... throughout their entire term of incarceration.’ 18 U.S.C. § 2621(h)(6).”); *Patel v. Barron*, Case No. C23- 937-KKE, 2023 WL 6311281, at *5 (W.D.

Wash. Sept. 28, 2023) (finding that 28 C.F.R. § 523.42(a) directly conflicts with an unambiguous statute and that BOP was not entitled to deference under *Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 467 U.S. 837 (1984)); *Yufenyuy v. Warden*, FCI Berlin, 659 F.Supp.3d 213, 218 (D.N.H. 2023) (same); *Sharma v. Peters*, Case No. 2:24-CV-158-RAH-KFP, 2024 WL 4668135, at *9 (M.D.

Ala. Nov. 4, 2024) (evaluating 28 C.F.R. § 523.41 under the *Loper* standard and finding “the undersigned is not convinced that Sharma's purported inability to earn FTCs for which he was eligible was because he was housed outside of his designated facility.”); but see *Stevens v. Jacquez*, Case No. 3:23-CV-01482-AA, 2024 WL 3200546, at *4 (D. Ore. June 25, 2024) (finding that the policy conflicts with the plain language of the FSA but that Page 4 of 6 petitioner could not show he successfully participated in programming); *Solberg v. Eischen*, Case No. 23-cv-3568 (ECT/DTS), 2024 WL 3251713, at *2 (D.

Minn. May 7, 2024), report and recommendation adopted, File No. 23-cv-3568 (ECT/DTS), 2024 WL 3086630, at *1 (D. Minn. June 21, 2024) (noting that petitioner could not show he had participated in programming); *Dane v. Bayless*, Civil Action No. 5:24-CV-157, 2024 WL 5150683, at *3- 5 (N.D. W. Va. Nov. 20, 2024) (following *Stevens*), report and recommendation adopted, Civil Action No. 5:24-CV-157, 2024 WL 5150650 (N.D.

W. Va. Dec. 17, 2024); *Harper v. Warden*, FCI Waseca, Case No. 23-cv-2502 (JRL/TNL), 2024 WL 3164981, at *5-6 (D. Minn. May 28, 2024), report and recommendation adopted, Civil No. 23-2502 (JRT/TNL), 2024 WL 3163730 (D. Minn. June 25, 2024).

Here, the Court need not decide whether the BOP's regulations conflict with the FSA because even if they do, Khan has not established that she is entitled to an award of FSA time credit of 1 day for the first three days of administrative detention prior to April 14, 2023, and an award of FSA time credit of 43 days from January 23, 2024, to April 19, 2024, while she was on a writ.

To be entitled to FSA time credit, Khan had to successfully participate in EBRR programming or PAs during these time frames. Khan has not demonstrated in her petition, or any of the attachments thereto that she successfully participated in any EBRR programming or PAs during these periods, to justify an award of additional FSA time credit. Instead, it appears she is seeking FSA time credit simply because she was sentenced and incarcerated.

This is supported by the arguments in her Page 5 of 6 pleadings as it focuses on when she should have earned FSA time credit instead of pointing to any evidence that she successfully participated in any EBRR programming or PAs during these time periods.

Accordingly, Khan has not shown that the BOP failed to properly calculate and apply her FSA time credits and, consequently, she is not entitled to habeas relief in this matter. **CONCLUSION** Based on the foregoing, the Court **DENIES** Khan's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (Doc. 1).

The Court **DISMISSES** with prejudice this matter. The Court **DIRECTS** the Clerk of the Court to enter judgment reflecting the same and close the case. **IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED:** April 20, 2026. Digitally signed Plat © Do Boies 20260420 15:23:42 -05'00' GILBERTC.SISON United States Magistrate Judge Page 6 of 6