

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

William Samuel Schmidt v. Dean Mason

No. C25-5021JLR (W.D. Wash. Dec. 30, 2025) · No. C25-5021JLR · Decided December 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington adopted a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation concerning William Samuel Schmidt’s federal habeas corpus petition. The court held that the petition was barred by the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act’s one-year statute of limitations, overruled Schmidt’s objections, and dismissed the petition with prejudice. The court also denied a certificate of appealability and directed the clerk to close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
WRITING FOR THE COURT	James L. Robart
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
DECIDED	December 30, 2025
DOCKET	C25-5021JLR
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's report and recommendation recommending denial of a state prisoner's federal habeas petition and considered the petitioner's objections de novo.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court conducts a de novo determination of portions of a magistrate judge's report and recommendation to which specific objection is made under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). Pro se pleadings and objections are construed liberally.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; nonprecedential
PARTIES	William Samuel Schmidt v. Dean Mason

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- statute of limitations
- pleadings
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the magistrate judge's recommendation that Schmidt's federal habeas petition was barred by AEDPA's one-year statute of limitations should be adopted.
2. Whether Schmidt was entitled to a federal evidentiary hearing based on his assertion that the state court had not provided a full and fair review.
3. Whether a certificate of appealability should issue.

HOLDINGS

1. The district court overruled Schmidt's objections and adopted the magistrate judge's report and recommendation in its entirety.
2. The petition was barred by AEDPA's one-year statute of limitations and was dismissed with prejudice.
3. The court denied Schmidt's request for an evidentiary hearing and denied a certificate of appealability.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Being fully advised, the court ADOPTS the report and recommendation, DISMISSES Mr. Schmidt's habeas petition, and DENIES a certificate of appealability." (1)

"The court has carefully considered Mr. Schmidt's objections and has reviewed Magistrate Judge Fricke's report and recommendation de novo in light of those objections." (2)

"Mr. Schmidt's petition for writ of habeas corpus is DISMISSED with prejudice." (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Schmidt challenged his January 26, 2018 conviction and sentence on four counts of child molestation in the first degree. He filed his federal habeas petition on January 9, 2025. The magistrate judge concluded that the petition was barred by AEDPA's one-year statute of limitations, and Schmidt objected that the state court had not provided a full and fair review requiring a federal evidentiary hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Schmidt filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus on January 9, 2025, challenging his 2018 conviction and sentence for four counts of first-degree child molestation. Magistrate Judge Theresa L. Fricke recommended that the petition be denied as barred by AEDPA's one-year statute of limitations, that an evidentiary hearing be denied, and that a certificate of appealability be denied. The district court overruled Schmidt's objections, adopted the report and recommendation in full, dismissed the petition with prejudice, denied a certificate of appealability, and directed the Clerk to close the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Bernhardt v. Los Angeles County, 339 F.3d 920, 925 (9th Cir.)

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