

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, ROANOKE DIVISION

Marvin Adams v. Warden John Gilley

Civil Case No. 7:25-cv-00153 (W.D. Va. Mar. 30, 2026) · No. 7:25-cv-00153 · Decided March 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia denied Marvin Adams’s motions for default judgment, injunctive relief, expedited relief, and other ancillary relief in his pro se 28 U.S.C. § 2241 petition. The court granted the respondent’s motion for summary judgment, concluding that Adams had no constitutional entitlement to home confinement or halfway-house placement, that the Bureau of Prisons’ placement decision was not judicially reviewable, and that the Bureau had conducted the required statutory review. The court dismissed the matter in its entirety.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, Roanoke Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Elizabeth K. Dillon
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, Roanoke Division
DECIDED	March 30, 2026
DOCKET	7:25-cv-00153
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 concerning Federal Time Credits and placement in pre-release custody. Respondent moved to dismiss or, alternatively, for summary judgment; petitioner filed a cross-motion for summary judgment and numerous other motions.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Summary judgment is proper when there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. On cross-motions, each motion is examined separately under Rule 56. For preliminary injunctive relief, the movant must show a likelihood of success on the merits, likely irreparable harm, favorable balancing of equities, and that an injunction is in the public interest.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court memorandum opinion; persuasive value only
PARTIES	Marvin Adams v. Warden John Gilley

TOPICS

federal habeas corpus summary judgment default judgment injunctions post-conviction relief

PRACTICE AREAS

federal habeas corpus post-conviction relief federal civil procedure prisoner rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Adams was entitled to default judgment or to have his habeas petition granted as unopposed because the government did not initially respond within thirty days.
2. Whether the Bureau of Prisons's calculation of Adams's Federal Time Credits and projected release or placement dates entitled him to habeas relief.
3. Whether Adams had a constitutional or statutory right to placement in home confinement or a halfway house and whether the Bureau of Prisons's placement decision was subject to judicial review.
4. Whether the Bureau of Prisons conducted the required five-factor placement review under the Second Chance Act.
5. Whether Adams could obtain summary judgment, discovery-related relief, subpoenas, or preliminary injunctive relief.

HOLDINGS

1. Default judgment was properly denied because Adams had not first obtained an entry of default under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(a), and the government's response delay did not independently justify default judgment.
2. Adams was not entitled to habeas relief based on his assertion that the Bureau of Prisons miscalculated his Federal Time Credits because he provided no evidence or reasoning demonstrating that the Bureau's calculations were erroneous or that he was entitled to earlier release.
3. A federal inmate has no constitutional right or protected liberty interest in placement in home confinement, a halfway house, or other particular pre-release custody, and the Bureau of Prisons's placement decision is not subject to judicial review under the First Step Act's designation provision.
4. The Bureau of Prisons satisfied its obligation to conduct the Second Chance Act's five-factor review, and the court lacked authority to review the substantive merits or thoroughness of that discretionary placement analysis.
5. Adams was not entitled to preliminary injunctive or expedited relief because he could not show a likelihood of success on the merits.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“While the First Step Act provides criteria for the BOP to consider when designating an inmate to a place of imprisonment, it also states unequivocally that the BOP’s designation is not subject to judicial review.” (2021 WL 2843835, at *6)

“A preliminary injunction is an “extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief.””

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Adams is a federal inmate serving his sentence at USP Lee. The Bureau of Prisons calculated that he had earned Federal Time Credits resulting in projected dates for conditional release and pre-release placement, and his Unit Team conducted the required five-factor review under the Second Chance Act. The Unit Team referred him for residential reentry placement and later identified a home-confinement placement date, but the proposed home addresses were rejected by the United States Probation Office, delaying placement.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Adams filed a § 2241 petition and amended petition seeking application of Federal Time Credits and placement in a residential reentry center or home confinement under the First Step Act and Second Chance Act. After granting the government an extension to respond, the court considered respondent's motion for summary judgment, Adams's cross-motion, and Adams's motions for default judgment, judicial notice, discovery-related relief, subpoenas, and injunctive or expedited relief. The court granted judicial notice, denied the remaining petitioner motions, granted respondent's motion for summary judgment, and dismissed the action.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Kwaigaye v. City of Charlotte, No. 3:25-CV-00712-KDB-SCR, 2025 WL 3217040, at *1 (W.D.N.C. Nov. 18, 2025)
- Santander Bank, NA v. Gaver, No. RDB-17-00374, 2019 WL 1077386, at *5 (D. Md. Mar. 7, 2019)
- Payne ex rel. Estate of Calzada v. Brake, 439 F.3d 198, 204-05 (4th Cir. 2006)
- Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 247-48 (1986)
- Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 586-87 (1986)
- Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323-25 (1986)
- Desmond v. PNGI Charles Town Gaming, LLC, 630 F.3d 351, 354 (4th Cir. 2011)
- John C. Grimberg Co. v. Nudura Corp., 775 F. Supp. 3d 946, 954 (D. Md. 2025)
- Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007)
- Bouchat v. Baltimore Ravens Football Club, Inc., 346 F.3d 514, 526 (4th Cir. 2003)
- Booker v. Bayless, Civil Action No. 5:24-CV-43, 2024 WL 4169176, at *6 (N.D.W. Va. June 27, 2024)

- *Crum v. Young*, No. 5:20-cv-00658, 2021 WL 2843835, at *5-*6 (S.D.W. Va. Jan. 27, 2021)
- *United States v. Smith*, Case No. 6:15-cr-00006-001, 2019 WL 4016211, at *2 (W.D. Va. Aug. 26, 2019)
- *Garrison v. Stansberry*, 2009 WL 1160115, at *5 (E.D. Va. Apr. 29, 2009)
- *Woodrow v. Ray*, 2024 WL 4171370, at *3 (N.D.W. Va. July 25, 2024)
- *Weber v. Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC*, 341 F.R.D. 214, 216 (E.D.N.C. 2022)
- *Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20, 22 (2008)

OPINION

CLERKS OFFICE US DISTRICT COUF AT ROANOKE, VA FILED IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT March 30. 2026 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA LAURA A. AUSTIN, CLERK ROANOKE DIVISION By: /s/ M. Poff DEPUTY CLERK MARVIN ADAMS,) Petitioner,) Civil Case No. 7:25-cv-00153 Vv.)) WARDEN JOHN GILLEY,) By: Elizabeth K. Dillon Respondent.) Chief United States District Judge MEMORANDUM OPINION Marvin Adams, a federal inmate proceeding pro se, filed this petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, requesting that he be placed in pre-release custody upon application of Federal Time Credits (FTCs)! under the First Step Act (FSA) and the Second Chance Act (SCA).

(See Habeas Pet., Am. Petition, Dkt. Nos. 1, 5, 21.) Before the court is the respondent's motion to dismiss, or in the alternative, for summary judgment. (Dkt. No. 28.) Also before the court are several motions for expedited relief and/or for preliminary injunctive relief filed by Adams. (See Dkt. Nos. 10, 13, 20, 22, 25, 27, 34, 40, 42, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50.)

In addition, Adams filed a motion to grant his habeas petition as unopposed or for default judgment (Dkt. No. 17), a motion for judicial notice (Dkt. No. 26), a cross-motion for summary judgment (Dkt. No. 36), a motion to strike and compel production of documents (Dkt. No. 43), and a motion for issuance of subpoenas (Dkt. No. 44). Adams responded to the motion to dismiss filed by the government (Dkt.

No. 35), the government filed a reply brief (Dkt. No. 39), and Adams filed a sur-reply (Dkt. No. 41). For the reasons stated below, Adams' motion for judicial notice will be granted, but his remaining motions will be denied.

The government's motion for summary judgment will be granted, and this matter will be dismissed in its entirety. ' Federal Time Credits are also referred to as Earned Time Credits (ETCs). I. BACKGROUND In support of his motion for summary judgment, the respondent has provided a declaration and accompanying exhibits by Isaac Calfee, the Case Manager for the Bureau of Prisons at the United States Penitentiary Lee County.

(Dkt. Nos. 29-1, 29-2, 29-3.) Adams is a BOP inmate designated to serve his sentence at USP Lee. (Calfee Decl. ¶ 4.) Adams' current projected release date without the application of FTCs or a

SCA review is October 30, 2029. (Id. ¶ 5.) Adams' most recent calculation on November 1, 2025, shows that Adams has earned FTC since December 21, 2018, resulting in 365 FTCs toward supervised release and 835 FTCs toward pre-release custody.

(Id., Ex. 1.) Pursuant to this calculation, Adams' FSA conditional release date is October 30, 2028. (Id.) The FTC calculation also projects the maximum number of FTCs an eligible inmate can earn towards pre-release custody. (Calfee Decl. ¶ 6.) Adams' maximum FTCs are 910. Adams' FSA Conditional Placement Date is May 4, 2026, which is calculated by subtracting 910 days from Adams' Conditional Release Date.

(Id.) In April 2025, Adams' Unit Team individually assessed him for pre-release custody placement under the SCA using the five-factor review from 18 U.S.C. § 3621(b). Adams' Unit Team determined that an additional 10 months under the SCA was appropriate. (Calfee Decl. ¶ 7.)

Therefore, the Unit Team subtracted the 10 months from Adams' FSA Conditional Placement Date and submitted a referral to the Residential Reentry Manager (RRM) recommending that Adams be placed in pre-release custody, specifically a Residential Reentry Center (RRC) as early as July 2, 2025. (Id.) Adams' Unit Team could not refer Adams to Home Confinement (HC) on that date because 18 U.S.C. § 3524(c) restricts the BOP in placing inmates on HC to the last six months or 10% of their sentence, whichever is less.

Accordingly, Adams was not eligible for HC until November 3, 2025, at the earliest. (Id. ¶ 8.) On September 15, 2025, the RRM informed Adams' Unit Team that Adams received an HC placement date of November 4, 225. (Calfee Decl. ¶ 9.)

However, in late October, the United States Probation Office (USPO) determined that Adams' home confinement address was no longer approved due to concerns after investigation. Adams recommended another home confinement address, but USPO also denied the new address.

As a result, Adams' placement date was pushed back to May of 2026. (Id.) II. ANALYSIS A. Default Judgment Adams moves for default judgment, or to grant his habeas petition as unopposed, on the grounds that the respondent did not file a response within thirty days of the court's June 30, 2025, service order. (Dkt. No. 14.) This is accurate, but on September 10, 2025, the court granted respondent's motion for an extension on the grounds that the United States did not receive the order and only learned of the case and the order to respond on September 9.

(Dkt. No. 19.) The government filed its motion to dismiss on November 19, 2025.² Default judgments are governed by Rule 55 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Adams' motion for default judgment will be denied because he did not first seek entry of default under Rule 55(a). "Because Rule 55(a) is a prerequisite for entry of default judgment," a motion for default judgment without prior entry of default is "not on the proper procedural footing." ² Before its

response was due following the grant of an extension on September 10, the government filed a motion to stay deadlines due to the lapse in appropriations caused by the government shutdown.

(Dkt. No. 24.) The court did not rule on this motion, and it was eventually dismissed as moot when the shutdown ended. (Dkt. No. 33.) The government filed its motion to dismiss after the shutdown ended. *Kwaigaye v. City of Charlotte*, No. 3:25-CV-00712-KDB-SCR, 2025 WL 3217040, at *1 (W.D.N.C. Nov. 18, 2025) (denying motion for default judgment because plaintiff did not seek entry of default before moving for default judgment and “entry of default is a prerequisite to the entry of a default judgment”).

The court also notes that Adams filed an amended petition after he filed his default judgment motion. Because an “amended complaint supersedes the prior operative complaint, rendering it of no legal effect... the filing of an amended complaint renders pending motions for default judgment moot....” *Santander Bank, NA v. Gaver*, No. RDB-17-00374, 2019 WL 1077386, at *5 (D.

Md. Mar. 7, 2019). Aside from these procedural issues, there is no basis for entering default judgment or granting the habeas petition as unopposed simply because the government’s motion was untimely. Courts consider the following factors when deciding whether to set aside a party’s default: (1) whether the defaulting party has a meritorious defense; (2) whether the defaulting party acts with reasonable promptness; (3) the defaulting party’s culpability; (4) the prejudice to the non-moving party; (5) whether there is a history of dilatory action; and (6) the availability and effectiveness of less drastic sanctions.

Payne ex rel. Estate of Calzada v. Brake, 439 F.3d 198, 204–05 (4th Cir. 2006). The government has a meritorious defense to the claims in Adams’ petition, as discussed in the balance of this petition. The government also acted with reasonable promptness in seeking an extension once it learned of the filing of the petition.

For these reasons, the court will deny Adams’ motion for default judgment. B. Motion for Judicial Notice Petitioner filed a motion to notify the court of “recent developments” directly affecting the matters in his § 2241 petition. (Dkt. No. 26.) This motion will be granted to the extent that the court considered this submission in making its ruling on whether to grant the relief requested by Adams in his petition.

C. Summary Judgment³ Summary judgment is appropriate where “the movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a). “By its very terms, this standard provides that the mere existence of some alleged factual dispute between the parties will not defeat an otherwise properly supported motion for summary judgment; the requirement is that there be no genuine issue of material fact.” *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 247–48 (1986) (emphasis in original).

In reviewing the supported underlying facts, all inferences must be viewed in the light most favorable to the party opposing the motion. See *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574, 587 (1986). Additionally, the party opposing summary judgment “must do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material facts.” *Id.* at 586.

That is, once the movant has met its burden to show absence of material fact, the party opposing summary judgment must then come forward with affidavits or other evidence demonstrating there is indeed a genuine issue for trial. *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323–25 (1986). “When cross-motions for summary judgment are before a court, the court examines each motion separately, employing the familiar standard under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.” *Desmond v. PNGI Charles Town Gaming, LLC*, 630 F.3d 351, 354 (4th Cir.

2011). The court must deny both motions if it finds there is a genuine dispute of material fact, but “if there is no genuine dispute and one or the other party is entitled to prevail as a matter of law, the 3 Because the court has considered evidence outside of the pleadings, the court will address this matter as a motion for summary judgment. court will render judgment.” *John C. Grimberg Co., Inc. v. Nudura Corp.*, 775 F. Supp. 3d 946, 954 (D.

Md. 2025). While the submissions of pro se litigants are liberally construed, see *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007), the court must also abide the “affirmative obligation of the trial judge to prevent factually unsupported claims and defenses from proceeding to trial.” *Bouchat v. Baltimore Ravens Football Club, Inc.*, 346 F.3d 514, 526 (4th Cir. 2003).

1. Respondent’s Motion Respondent’s motion for summary judgment will be granted for the following reasons. First, Adams “does not have a constitutional right to placement in home confinement.” *Booker v. Bayless*, Civil Action No. 5:24-CV-43, 2024 WL 4169176, at *6 (N.D.W. Va. June 27, 2024) (recommending denial of § 2241 petition because the BOP “properly exercised its discretion in accordance with the SCA” in denying home confinement placement).

Adams lacks a cognizable habeas claim because he does not have “a liberty interest in designation to a halfway house for any portion of his sentence.” *Crum v. Young*, No. 5:20-cv-00658, 2021 WL 2843835, at *5 (S.D.W. Va. Jan. 27, 2021).

Second, the BOP’s placement decision is not reviewable in this court. “While the First Step Act provides criteria for the BOP to consider when designating an inmate to a place of imprisonment, it also states unequivocally that the BOP’s designation is not subject to judicial review.” *Crum*, 2021 WL 2843835, at *6; see also *United States v. Smith*, Case No. 6:15-cr- 00006-001, 2019 WL 4016211, at *2 (W.D.

Va. Aug. 26, 2019) (“While the Second Chance Act and the First Step Act expand the BOP’s authority to place prisoners, they do not vest placement authority in this Court.”). Third, the BOP conducted the required five-factor review under the SCA to determine the proper placement for

Adams: (1) the resources of the facility contemplated; (2) the nature and circumstances of the offense; (3) the history and characteristics of the prisoner; (4) any statement by the court that imposed the sentence; and (5) any pertinent policy statement issued by the United States Sentencing Commission.

See 18 U.S.C. § 3621(b). The court “lacks the authority to direct the BOP to consider specific characteristics for each prisoner who is reviewed for RRC placement; the Court is limited to asking whether the BOP used the five factors and cannot engage in a review of the substantive merits or thoroughness of the BOP’s analysis.” *Garrison v. Stansberry*, 2009 WL 1160115, at *5 (E.D.

Va. Apr. 29, 2009). Adams argues that the BOP miscalculated his FTCs and he is eligible for immediate release. (Dkt. No. 35 at 1.) However, he provides no reasoning or justification to conclude that the BOP’s calculations set forth in the Calfee Declaration are incorrect. See *Woodrow v. Ray*, 2024 WL 4171370, at *3 (N.D.W. Va. July 25, 2024) (dismissing a § 2241 petition where the petitioner did not provide a basis “to show that the BOP has erred in calculating [his] release date or that he is entitled to an earlier release”).

Adams also argues that he does not need an approved home plan for RRC placement. (Dkt. No. 35 at 2.) The government does not dispute this assertion but explains that it is not relevant because Adams has not been accepted by an RRC facility for placement.

As discussed herein, Adams’ placement at an institution, an RRC facility, or on home confinement is with the BOP’s discretion. For these reasons, the court will grant the respondent’s motion for summary judgment. 2. Petitioner’s Cross-Motion Petitioner is not entitled to summary judgment for the same reasons that the respondent is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.

Accordingly, the court will deny petitioner’s motion for summary judgment. D. Petitioner’s Motions to Strike, Compel Production, Issue Subpoenas Petitioner has moved to strike the declaration of Isaac Calfee as “containing mathematical falsehoods constituting fraud upon the Court.” (Dkt. No. 43.) Rule 12(f) provides that the “court may strike from a pleading an insufficient defense or any redundant, immaterial, impertinent, or scandalous matter.” Fed.

R. Civ. P. 12(f). A “pleading” is defined by Rule 7 as a complaint, an answer to a complaint, an answer to a cross-claim, a third-party complaint, an answer to a third- party complaint, and a reply to an answer. Fed. R. Civ. P. 7(a).

As a declaration filed in support of summary judgment is not a pleading, petitioner’s motion will be denied. See *Weber v. Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC*, 341 F.R.D. 214, 216 (E.D.N.C. 2022) (explaining that Rule 12(f) “provides no basis for striking an affidavit filed in relation to a summary judgment motion”). Petitioner’s motions to compel production of documents and to issue subpoenas will be denied due to the lack of merit underlying this § 2241 petition.

E. Petitioner's Motions for Injunctive Relief and/or Expedited Relief Petitioner, as noted, has filed several motions for immediate release or RRC placement and various forms of injunctive relief. (See, e.g., Dkt. No. 45.) A preliminary injunction is an "extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief." *Winter v. Nat.*

Res. Defense Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 22 (2008). A plaintiff seeking such relief "must establish that he is likely to succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that an injunction is in the public interest." *Id.* at 20. Petitioner is not likely to succeed on the merits of this action for the reasons stated in this opinion.

Accordingly, the court will deny Adams' motions for injunctive relief. III. CONCLUSION For the foregoing reasons, the court will grant Adams' motion for judicial notice, deny the balance of Adams' motions, and grant the government's motion for summary judgment in an appropriate order. Entered: March 30, 2026. /s/ Elizabeth K. Dillon Elizabeth K. Dillon Chief United States District Judge