

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
WEST VIRGINIA

Shawn Lanier Lowman, Jr. v. Warden Holzapfel, FCI Beckley

Lowman · No. 5:25-cv-00307 · Decided February 24, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia adopted a magistrate judge's proposed findings and recommendation in Shawn Lanier Lowman, Jr.'s 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas action. The court denied the habeas petition and a related motion concerning law-library access, and dismissed the matter after no objections were filed.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Frank W. Volk
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia
DECIDED	February 24, 2026
DOCKET	5:25-cv-00307
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and related motion for an order directing the respondent to provide a memorandum were referred to a magistrate judge, who recommended denial and dismissal. The district court adopted the proposed findings and recommendation without de novo review because no objections were filed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	When no timely objection is filed to a magistrate judge's proposed findings and recommendation, the district court need not conduct de novo review of the unobjected-to portions. General and conclusory objections likewise do not require de novo review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district-court order; precedential status unknown
PARTIES	Shawn Lanier Lowman, Jr. v. Warden Holzapfel, FCI Beckley

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- civil procedure
- pleadings

PRACTICE AREAS

federal habeas corpus

federal civil procedure

magistrate judge recommendations

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court was required to conduct de novo review of the magistrate judge's proposed findings and recommendation when no objections were filed.
2. Whether the court should adopt the PF&R, deny the § 2241 petition and related motion, and dismiss the action.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court need not conduct de novo review of the factual or legal conclusions in portions of a magistrate judge's proposed findings and recommendation to which no timely objection is made; failure to object waives de novo review and the right to appeal those findings.
2. The court adopted the PF&R, denied the petition for a writ of habeas corpus under § 2241, denied the motion directing the respondent to issue a memorandum, and dismissed the matter.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Accordingly, the Court ADOPTS the PF&R [Doc. 10], DENIES Mr. Lowman's § 2241 Petition [Doc. 1], DENIES Mr. Lowman's Motion for Order Directing the Respondent to Issue a Memorandum [Doc. 7], and DISMISSES the matter."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The petitioner, a federal inmate at FCI Beckley, sought habeas relief under § 2241 and requested an order requiring the respondent to identify dates when the unit was locked down and the law library was unavailable. The magistrate judge recommended denying both requests and dismissing the action. The petitioner filed no objections to the PF&R by the established deadline.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Lowman filed a § 2241 petition on May 8, 2025, and a motion concerning prison lockdown dates and law-library access on June 2, 2025. Magistrate Judge Joseph K. Reeder issued a proposed findings and recommendation on January 27, 2026, recommending denial of the petition and motion and dismissal of the case. No objections were filed by the February 13, 2026 deadline, so the district court adopted the PF&R, denied both requests, and dismissed the matter.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140 (1985)

- United States v. De Leon-Ramirez, 925 F.3d 177, 181 (4th Cir. 2019)
- Snyder v. Ridenour, 889 F.2d 1363, 1366 (4th Cir. 1989)
- Orpiano v. Johnson, 687 F.2d 44, 47 (4th Cir. 1982)

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