

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
INDIANA**

Christopher Coats v. Warden

No. 3:26-CV-481-PPS-AZ (N.D. Ind. May 21, 2026) · No. 3:26-CV-481-PPS-AZ · Decided May 21, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana dismissed Christopher Coats's habeas corpus petition challenging a prison disciplinary conviction because the proceeding did not lengthen the duration of his confinement. The court also directed the clerk to close the case and denied Coats leave to proceed in forma pauperis on appeal.

OPINION

Coats

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

SOUTH BEND DIVISION

CHRISTOPHER COATS,

Petitioner,

v. CAUSE NO. 3:26-CV-481-PPS-AZ

WARDEN,

Respondent.

OPINION AND ORDER

Christopher Coats, a prisoner without a lawyer, filed a habeas corpus petition challenging the prison disciplinary hearing (WCC 25-11-7593) where a Disciplinary Hearing Officer (DHO) found him guilty of Fleeing in violation of B-235 on February 4, 2026. ECF 1. Coats was not sanctioned with either the loss of Earned Credit Time or a demotion in Credit Class. Id. A prison disciplinary action can only be challenged in a habeas corpus proceeding where it results in the lengthening of the duration of confinement. *Hadley v. Holmes*, 341 F.3d 661, 664 (7th Cir. 2003). Because the duration of his confinement was not lengthened by the prison disciplinary proceeding, this case must be dismissed under Section 2254 Habeas Corpus Rule 4 as “it plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court.” If Coats wants to appeal this decision, he does not need a certificate of appealability because he is challenging a prison disciplinary proceeding. See *Evans v. Circuit Court*, 569 F.3d 665, 666 (7th Cir. 2009). However, he may not proceed in forma pauperis on appeal because an appeal could not be taken in good faith under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3). For these reasons, the court:

(1) DENIES the habeas corpus petition (ECF 1) under 2254 Habeas Corpus Rule 4;

(2) DIRECTS the clerk to enter judgment and close this case; and

(3) DENIES Christopher Coats leave to proceed in forma pauperis on appeal.

ENTERED: May 21, 2026. /s/ Philip P. Simon

PHILIP P. SIMON, JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT