

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN, SOUTHERN DIVISION

Kareem Shaw v. E. Rardin

Case No. 25-cv-10209 · No. 2:25-cv-10209 · Decided January 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan denied Kareem Shaw’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The court held that the Bureau of Prisons properly aggregated Shaw’s consecutive sentences under 18 U.S.C. § 3584(c) and correctly determined that his conviction for escape under 18 U.S.C. § 751(a) made him ineligible for First Step Act time credits.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Denise Page Hood
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division
DECIDED	January 30, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-10209
DISPOSITION	denied
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 from the Bureau of Prisons' determination that he was ineligible for earned time credits under the First Step Act. The district court denied the petition.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the § 2241 challenge to the BOP's sentence-credit determination and applied the governing statutory provisions to determine whether the BOP's calculation was lawful.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court opinion
PARTIES	Kareem Shaw v. E. Rardin

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- statutory interpretation
- administrative law

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether 18 U.S.C. § 3584(c) required the BOP to treat Shaw's consecutive sentences from separate criminal cases as a single aggregate term for administrative purposes.
2. Whether the aggregated sentence rendered Shaw ineligible for First Step Act earned time credits under 18 U.S.C. § 3632(d)(4)(D), because one of the convictions was for escape under 18 U.S.C. § 751(a).

HOLDINGS

1. The BOP properly aggregated Shaw's consecutive escape sentence with his drug-conspiracy sentence for administrative purposes under 18 U.S.C. § 3584(c), including for determining eligibility for First Step Act time credits.
2. Shaw was ineligible for First Step Act earned time credits because his aggregated sentence included a conviction for escape under 18 U.S.C. § 751(a), a disqualifying offense under 18 U.S.C. § 3632(d)(4)(D) (xiv).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Multiple terms of imprisonment ordered to run consecutively or concurrently shall be treated for administrative purposes as a single, aggregate term of imprisonment.” (III)

“The Court concludes that the BOP’s calculation is correct.” (III)

“Accordingly, the BOP properly denied Petitioner FSA credits based on his 2022 conviction for escaping from custody, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 751(a), because prisoners are not eligible to receive these earned time credits if they are serving a sentence for a conviction under § 3632(d)(4)(D).” (IV)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Shaw was sentenced in 2015 to 216 months' imprisonment for heroin-distribution conspiracy. In 2022, he received an additional eight-month sentence for escaping from custody, ordered to run consecutively to the earlier sentence. The BOP administratively aggregated the sentences and determined that Shaw was ineligible for First Step Act time credits because the escape conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 751(a) is a disqualifying offense.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Shaw filed a § 2241 petition on January 23, 2025, challenging the BOP's aggregation of his consecutive federal sentences for purposes of determining eligibility for First Step Act time credits. The respondent opposed the petition. The Eastern District of Michigan denied habeas relief and closed the case.

DISPOSITION

denied

CASES CITED

- United States v. Shaw, Case No. 13-cr-00025, Doc. 670 (W.D. Va.)
- United States v. Shaw, Case No. 22-cr-00105, Doc. 29 (E.D. Va.)
- Keeling v. Lemaster, 2023 WL 9061914, at *1 (6th Cir. Nov. 22, 2023)
- Sok v. Eischen, 2022 WL 17156797, at *5 (D. Minn. Oct. 26, 2022)
- Hargrove v. Healy, 2024 WL 3992261, at *4-5 (N.D. Ohio Aug. 28, 2024)
- Andrews v. Rardin, 2024 WL 3236249, at *3 (E.D. Mich. June 28, 2024)
- Martinez v. Rosalez, No. 23-50406, 2024 WL 140438, at *3 (5th Cir. Jan. 12, 2024)
- Witham v. United States, 355 F.3d 501, 504 (6th Cir. 2004)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION KAREEM SHAW, Petitioner, Case No. 25-cv-10209 v. Honorable Denise Page Hood E. RARDIN, Respondent. OPINION AND ORDER DENYING THE PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS I. Introduction Petitioner Kareem Shaw filed this habeas corpus action under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, challenging the Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”) determination that he was ineligible for First Step Act (“FSA”) time credits due to improper aggregation of his sentences.

(ECF No. 1.) Respondent filed a response contending that his claim lacks merit and the petition should be denied. For the reasons stated below, the Court DENIES the petition. II. Background On October 30, 2014, Petitioner entered into a written plea agreement in which he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute a measurable quantity of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of heroin in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(b)(1)(A) and 846.

United States v. Shaw, Case No. 13-cr-00025, Doc. 670, PageID.1, (W.D. Va.). On April 22, 2015, the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia sentenced Petitioner to 216 months of incarceration and 5 years of supervised release. *Id.* In 2022, Petitioner was subsequently convicted of escaping from custody, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 751(a), and was sentenced to a term of eight months, which the court ordered to run consecutively to the sentence that he was already serving in Case No. 13-cr-00025.

See United States v. Shaw, Case No. 22-cr-00105, Doc. 29, PageID.2 (E.D. Va.). Petitioner is presently confined at the Federal Correctional Institute in Milan, Michigan (FCI-Milan). On January 23, 2025, Petitioner initiated this habeas proceeding. His petition claims that the BOP’s decision to aggregate his two sentences, rather than treat them as separate for purposes of determining his eligibility for FSA time credits, resulted in the improper denial of FSA time credits.

He contends that because he is currently serving a sentence for a conviction that is not an ineligible offense under 18 U.S.C. § 3632(d)(4)(D), he is entitled to the award of FSA time credits. Respondent disagrees and contends that Petitioner's sentences are aggregated for purposes of determining eligibility.

Because Petitioner's escape conviction renders him ineligible to receive FSA time credits, he is not entitled to receive any credits while serving his sentence for drug conspiracy. III. Discussion The statutes central to Petitioner's arguments are 18 U.S.C. § 3632(d)(4)(D) and 18 U.S.C. § 3584(c). Section 3584(c) provides that "[m]ultiple terms of imprisonment ordered to run consecutively or concurrently shall be treated for administrative purposes as a single, aggregate term of imprisonment." Here, in keeping with that statutory requirement, the BOP aggregated Petitioner's consecutive escape sentence with his conspiracy sentence.

Section 3632(d)(4)(D) provides that "[a] prisoner is ineligible to receive time credits under this paragraph if the prisoner is serving a sentence for a conviction under" listed offenses that include a conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 751(a). See 18 U.S.C. § 3632(d)(4)(D)(xiv).

Here, pursuant to this statutory requirement, the BOP concluded that Petitioner was ineligible for FSA time credits because his aggregated prison term included a disqualifying offense under § 3632(d)(4)(D)(xiv). Petitioner disputes this conclusion, arguing that the BOP's aggregation of the two sentences under § 3584(c) should not apply in the context of determining his eligibility for time credits under § 3632(d)(4)(D).

The Court concludes that the BOP's calculation is correct. In *Keeling v. Lemaster*, the Sixth Circuit observed that "courts have consistently and correctly held that the calculation of a prisoner's sentence, and the awarding of credits that reduce the length of that sentence, 'are administrative functions of the BOP subject to § 3584(c).'" 2023 WL 9061914, at *1 (6th Cir.

Nov. 22, 2023) (quoting *Sok v. Eischen*, 2022 WL 17156797, at *5 (D. Minn. Oct. 26, 2022) (collecting cases), report and recommendation adopted, 2022 WL 17128929 (Nov. 22, 2022), *aff'd*, No. 23-1025, 2023 WL 5282709, at *1 (8th Cir. Aug. 17, 2023)).

The Sixth Circuit therefore found that the district court "did not err in concluding that [the petitioner]'s aggregated sentence precluded him from receiving earned time credit under the FSA and denying his § 2241 petition." *Keeling*, 2023 WL 9061914, at *1.

Although *Keeling* involved the aggregation of sentences for multiple convictions within a single case, many other courts have found the same principle applies where the BOP aggregated sentences from separate cases. See *Hargrove v. Healy*, 2024 WL 3992261, at *4-5 (N.D. Ohio Aug. 28, 2024) (agreeing with other courts that found it proper for the BOP to aggregate sentences imposed in separate cases before finding a petitioner ineligible to receive credits under the FSA) (citing *Andrews v. Rardin*, 2024 WL 3236249, at *3 (E.D.

Mich. June 28, 2024) (“Because Petitioner was ordered to serve the sentence on his 2005 case consecutively to the sentence in his 2017 case, it was proper for the BOP to aggregate these two sentences, for purposes of the First Step Act, and conclude that Petitioner is ineligible to receive credits under the FSA.”); *Martinez v. Rosalez*, No. 23-50406, 2024 WL 140438, at *3 (5th Cir.

Jan 12, 2024) (“Because his two federal sentences were combined and imposed to run consecutively to his foreign sentence, he is currently still serving the single, aggregated sentence based on those multiple terms of imprisonment when viewed in the administrative context....

We agree with the district court that aggregation in the administrative context under §§ 3584(c) and 4105(c)(4) was proper for purposes of FSA time credits.”). Accordingly, the BOP properly denied Petitioner FSA credits based on his 2022 conviction for escaping from custody, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 751(a), because prisoners are not eligible to receive these earned time credits if they are serving a sentence for a conviction under § 3632(d)(4)(D).

Because Petitioner was ordered to serve the sentence on his 2022 case consecutively to the sentence in his 2013 case, it was proper for the BOP to aggregate these two sentences, for purposes of the First Step Act, and conclude that Petitioner is ineligible to receive credits under the FSA. Petitioner is not entitled to habeas relief. IV. Conclusion For the reasons stated, the Court DENIES the petition.

Because a certificate of appealability is not needed to appeal the denial of a habeas petition filed under § 2241, *Witham v. United States*, 355 F.3d 501, 504 (6th Cir. 2004), Petitioner need not apply for one with this Court or with the Sixth Circuit before filing an appeal from the denial of his habeas petition. This case is closed. IT IS SO ORDERED. S/DENISE PAGE HOOD DENISE PAGE HOOD United States District Judge Dated: January 30, 2026