

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS

Rohn M. Weatherly v. Director, TDCJ-CID

Weatherly · No. 9:24-CV-5 · Decided January 22, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas adopted the magistrate judge’s recommendation to deny Rohn M. Weatherly’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The court also denied a certificate of appealability and directed that final judgment be entered consistent with the recommendation.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Marcia A. Crone
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
DECIDED	January 22, 2026
DOCKET	9:24-CV-5
DISPOSITION	writ_denied
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought federal habeas corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The district court adopted the magistrate judge's report and recommendation denying the petition and denied a certificate of appealability.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court reviewed the magistrate judge's findings of fact and conclusions of law and found them correct. For a certificate of appealability, the petitioner must make a substantial showing of the denial of a federal constitutional right; where the petition is denied on procedural grounds, the petitioner must show that reasonable jurists would debate both the constitutional claim and the procedural ruling.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	Rohn M. Weatherly v. Director, TDCJ-CID

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- appellate procedure
- standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal habeas corpus

Post-conviction relief

Appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should adopt the magistrate judge's report and recommendation denying Weatherly's § 2254 habeas petition.
2. Whether Weatherly made the showing required for issuance of a certificate of appealability.

HOLDINGS

1. The district court adopted the magistrate judge's findings of fact and conclusions of law and denied the § 2254 petition.
2. A certificate of appealability was denied because Weatherly failed to make a sufficient showing that the issues were debatable among jurists of reason or that the court's procedural ruling was incorrect.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Petitioner has not shown that any of the issues raised by his claims are subject to debate among jurists of reason or that a procedural ruling was incorrect." (opinion text)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Rohn M. Weatherly, a prisoner confined at the Connally Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, filed a pro se petition for federal habeas corpus relief. The opinion does not describe the underlying conviction or substantive habeas claims because it resolves the matter by adopting the magistrate judge's recommendation denying relief.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Weatherly filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Zack Hawthorn, who recommended denial of the petition on December 23, 2025. No objections were filed, and the district court adopted the report and recommendation and directed entry of final judgment.

DISPOSITION

writ_denied

CASES CITED

- Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 483-84 (2000)
- Elizalde v. Dretke, 362 F.3d 323, 328 (5th Cir. 2004)
- Barefoot v. Estelle, 463 U.S. 880, 893 (1982)
- Miller v. Johnson, 200 F.3d 274, 280-81 (5th Cir. 2000)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS ROHN M. WEATHERLY, § § Petitioner, § § versus § CIVIL ACTION NO. 9:24-CV-5 § DIRECTOR, TDCJ-CID, § § Respondent. § ORDER ADOPTING THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION Petitioner Rohn M. Weatherly, a prisoner confined at the Connally Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division, proceeding pro se, filed this petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

The court referred this matter to the Honorable Zack Hawthorn, United States Magistrate Judge, at Beaumont, Texas, for consideration pursuant to applicable laws and orders of this court. On December 23, 2025, the magistrate judge recommended denying the petition.

To date, the parties have not filed objections to the report. The court received and considered the Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to such referral, along with the record, pleadings and all available evidence.

After careful review, the court finds that the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the United States Magistrate Judge are correct. Accordingly, the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the magistrate judge are correct, and the Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge (#22) is ADOPTED. A final judgment will be entered in this case in accordance with the magistrate judge's recommendation.

Furthermore, Petitioner is not entitled to the issuance of a certificate of appealability. An appeal from a judgment denying federal habeas corpus relief may not proceed unless a judge issues a certificate of appealability. See 28 U.S.C. § 2253; FED. R. APP. P. 22(b).

The standard for granting a certificate of appealability, like that for granting a certificate of probable cause to appeal under prior law, requires the petitioner to make a substantial showing of the denial of a federal constitutional right. See *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 483-84 (2000); *Elizalde v. Dretke*, 362 F.3d 323, 328 (5th Cir. 2004); see also *Barefoot v. Estelle*, 463 U.S. 880, 893 (1982).

In making that substantial showing, the petitioner need not establish that he should prevail on the merits. Rather, he must demonstrate that the issues are subject to debate among jurists of reason, that a court could resolve the issues in a different manner, or that the questions presented are worthy of encouragement to proceed further. *Slack*, 529 U.S. at 483-84.

If the petition was denied on procedural grounds, the petitioner must show that jurists of reason would find it debatable: (1) whether the petition raises a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right, and (2) whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling. *Id.* at 484; *Elizalde*, 362 F.3d at 328. Any doubt regarding whether to grant a certificate of appealability

is resolved in favor of the petitioner, and the severity of the penalty may be considered in making this determination.

See *Miller v. Johnson*, 200 F.3d 274, 280-81 (5th Cir. 2000). 2 Petitioner has not shown that any of the issues raised by his claims are subject to debate among jurists of reason or that a procedural ruling was incorrect.

Therefore, Petitioner has failed to make a sufficient showing to merit the issuance of a certificate of appealability. SIGNED at Beaumont, Texas, this 22nd day of January, 2026. MARCIA A. CRONE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE