

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS, TEXARKANA DIVISION

Robert Sills v. Warden, FCI-Texarkana

Sills · No. 5:24-CV-107-RWS-JBB · Decided March 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas adopted a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation in Robert Sills’s 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas corpus petition. The court dismissed the petition as moot, without prejudice to Sills seeking any available relief from the sentencing court.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Texarkana Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Robert W. Schroeder III
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Texarkana Division
DECIDED	March 30, 2026
DOCKET	5:24-CV-107-RWS-JBB
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas relief under 42 U.S.C. § 2241. After referral, the magistrate judge recommended dismissal as moot. The district court adopted the recommendation and dismissed the petition as moot.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	For an unobjected-to magistrate judge's report and recommendation, the district court reviews for clear error, abuse of discretion, and whether the recommendation is contrary to law. Failure to object bars de novo review by the district judge and, absent plain error, appellate review of unobjected-to factual findings and legal conclusions.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; precedential status unknown
PARTIES	Robert Sills v. Warden, FCI-Texarkana

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- mootness
- standard of review
- appellate procedure
- pleadings

PRACTICE AREAS

federal habeas corpus

post-conviction relief

appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation should be adopted when no objections were filed.
2. Whether Sills's § 2241 habeas petition should be dismissed as moot.
3. Whether dismissal should preserve Sills's ability to seek relief from the sentencing court.

HOLDINGS

1. Because no objections were filed, the district court was not required to conduct de novo review and accepted the magistrate judge's findings and conclusions under the applicable clear-error, abuse-of-discretion, and contrary-to-law standard.
2. The petition for writ of habeas corpus was dismissed as moot.
3. Dismissal of the § 2241 petition does not prevent Sills from seeking relief to which he may be entitled from the sentencing court.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The dismissal of this petition does not prevent Petitioner from seeking such relief as he may be entitled from the sentencing court.” (Page 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Sills filed a federal habeas petition under 42 U.S.C. § 2241. The magistrate judge recommended dismissal as moot and stated that dismissal would not prevent Sills from seeking any relief available from the sentencing court. The Report and Recommendation was sent to Sills at his last known address but returned as undeliverable, and no objections were filed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Robert Sills, proceeding pro se, filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus under 42 U.S.C. § 2241. The case was referred to Magistrate Judge J. Boone Baxter, who issued a February 20, 2026 Report and Recommendation recommending dismissal as moot. The Report and Recommendation was returned as undeliverable, no objections were filed, and the district court adopted the recommendation as its opinion and dismissed the petition as moot.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Duarte v. City of Lewisville, Texas, 858 F.3d 348, 352 (5th Cir. 2017)
- Arriaga v. Laxminarayan, Case No. 4:21-CV-00203-RAS, 2021 WL 3287683, at *1 (E.D. Tex. July 31, 2021)
- United States v. Wilson, 864 F.2d 1219, 1221 (5th Cir. 1989), cert. denied, 492 U.S. 918 (1989)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
 TEXARKANA DIVISION ROBERT SILLS, § § Petitioner, § § v. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 5:24-
 CV-107-RWS-JBB § WARDEN, FCI-TEXARKANA, § § Defendant. § ORDER Petitioner Robert
 Sills, proceeding pro se, filed the above-captioned petition for writ of habeas corpus under 42
 U.S.C. § 2241. Docket No. 1.

The case was referred to United States Magistrate Judge J. Boone Baxter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636. On February 20, 2026, the Magistrate Judge issued a Report and Recommendation, recommending the above application for writ of habeas corpus be dismissed as moot. Docket No. 6.

The Magistrate Judge further recommended the dismissal should not prevent Petitioner from seeking such relief as he may be entitled from the sentencing court. Id. at 3. A copy of the Report and Recommendation was sent to Petitioner at his last known address, return receipt requested, but was returned as undeliverable. Docket No. 7.

As of this date, no objections to the Report and Recommendation have been filed. Local Rule CV-11(d) of the Local Rules of Court for the Eastern District of Texas requires that pro se litigants must provide the Court with a physical address and is responsible for keeping the Clerk of Court advised in writing of his current physical address.

Because no objections have been filed, any aggrieved party is barred from de novo review by the District Judge of the Magistrate Judge's proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendations. Moreover, except upon grounds of plain error, an aggrieved party is barred from appellate review of the unobjected-to factual findings and legal conclusions accepted and adopted by the District Court.

See Duarte v. City of Lewisville, Texas, 858 F.3d 348, 352 (Sth Cir. 2017); Arriaga v. Laxminarayan, Case No. 4:21-CV-00203-RAS, 2021 WL 3287683, at *1 (E.D. Tex. July 31, 2021). The Court has reviewed the pleadings in this case and the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge. Upon such review, the Court has determined that the Report of the Magistrate Judge is correct.

See United States v. Wilson, 864 F.2d 1219, 1221 (Sth Cir.), cert. denied, 492 U.S. 918 (1989) (where no objections to a Magistrate Judge's Report are filed, the standard of review is "clearly erroneous, abuse of discretion and contrary to law").

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Report of the Magistrate Judge (Docket No. 6) is ADOPTED as the opinion of the District Court. It is further ORDERED that the above-captioned petition for writ of habeas corpus is DISMISSED- AS-MOOT.

The dismissal of this petition does not prevent Petitioner from seeking such relief as he may be entitled from the sentencing court. So ORDERED and SIGNED this 30th day of March, 2026.
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