

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH
CAROLINA

Steve Jenkins v. M.V. Joseph, Warden

Jenkins · No. 1:25-cv-12574-JFA-SVH · Decided March 2, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of South Carolina adopts a Magistrate Judge’s Report and Recommendation and grants the Respondent’s motion for summary judgment. The court denies Steve Jenkins’s habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, which sought restoration of good-time credit revoked following a prison disciplinary proceeding. The court also denies a certificate of appealability.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Joseph F. Anderson, Jr.
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
DECIDED	March 2, 2026
DOCKET	1:25-cv-12574-JFA-SVH
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought habeas corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging the revocation of good-time credit following a prison disciplinary proceeding. The matter was referred to a magistrate judge, who recommended dismissal and summary judgment for Respondent. The district court overruled Petitioner's specific objection, adopted the Report and Recommendation, granted Respondent's motion for summary judgment, denied the petition, and denied a certificate of appealability.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court conducts de novo review of portions of a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation to which a specific written objection is made, and clear-error review of unobjected-to portions or portions challenged only by general and conclusory objections. The court may accept, reject, or modify the recommendation under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

TOPICS

federal habeas corpus

summary judgment

post-conviction relief

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal habeas corpus

Prisoner litigation

Civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court properly reviewed and adopted the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation in light of Jenkins's objections.
2. Whether Jenkins was entitled to habeas relief restoring good-time credit revoked after a prison disciplinary proceeding.
3. Whether Jenkins's assertion that prison staff failed to comply with a daily-mail-collection requirement justified or excused his disciplinary infraction.
4. Whether Jenkins was entitled to a certificate of appealability.

HOLDINGS

1. A district court must conduct de novo review of the specific portions of a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation to which a specific written objection is made, while unobjected-to portions and portions subject only to general or conclusory objections are reviewed for clear error.
2. Jenkins was not entitled to habeas relief because undisputed evidence showed that his good-time credit was revoked after a fair adjudication of his disciplinary action.
3. A certificate of appealability was denied because Jenkins failed to make a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A specific objection to the Magistrate Judge’s Report thus requires more than a reassertion of arguments from the complaint or a mere citation to legal authorities.”

“A review of the Report shows that the Magistrate Judge correctly concluded Petitioner is not entitled to habeas relief given the undisputed evidence showing his good time credit was revoked after a fair adjudication of his disciplinary action.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Jenkins, a federal prisoner, sought restoration of good-time credit revoked after a disciplinary infraction involving pressing a duress button. He argued that the infraction should be excused because he was attempting to contact prison officials about legal mail and because Bureau of Prisons staff allegedly failed to comply with a

handbook requirement concerning daily mail collection. The record contained undisputed evidence that the credit was revoked after a fair adjudication of the disciplinary charge.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Jenkins filed a § 2241 petition seeking restoration of good-time credit removed as punishment for a prison infraction. The magistrate judge conducted initial review of Respondent's motion to dismiss or alternatively for summary judgment and issued a Report and Recommendation concluding that the claim lacked merit. Jenkins objected, Respondent replied, and the district court conducted de novo review of the specifically objected-to portions and clear-error review of the remainder before adopting the Report.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Mathews v. Weber, 423 U.S. 261 (1976)
- Carniewski v. West Virginia Board of Probation & Parole, 974 F.2d 1330 (4th Cir. 1992)
- Camby v. Davis, 718 F.2d 198, 199 (4th Cir. 1983)
- Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co., 416 F.3d 310, 315-16 (4th Cir. 2005)
- Dunlap v. TM Trucking of the Carolinas, LLC, No. 0:15-cv-04009-JMC, 2017 WL 6345402, at *5 n.6 (D.S.C. Dec. 12, 2017)
- One Parcel of Real Property Known as 2121 E. 30th St., 73 F.3d 1057, 1059 (10th Cir. 1996)
- Workman v. Perry, No. 6:17-cv-00765-RBH, 2017 WL 4791150, at *1 (D.S.C. Oct. 23, 2017)
- Orpiano v. Johnson, 687 F.2d 44, 47 (4th Cir. 1982)
- Staley v. Norton, No. 9:07-0288-PMD, 2007 WL 821181, at *1 (D.S.C. Mar. 2, 2007)
- Howard v. Secretary of Health and Human Services, 932 F.2d 505, 509 (6th Cir. 1991)
- Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003)
- Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000)
- Rose v. Lee, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir. 2001)

OPINION

Jenkins

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Steve Jenkins, C/A No. 1:25-cv-12574-JFA-SVH Petitioner, v.

ORDER

M.V. Joseph, Warden, Respondent.

I. INTRODUCTION

Steve Jenkins (“Petitioner”), proceeding pro se, filed this action seeking habeas corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2) (D.S.C.), the case was referred to the Magistrate Judge for initial review. Specifically, the Magistrate Judge conducted an initial review of Respondent’s motion to dismiss or alternatively for summary judgment (ECF No. 23). After reviewing the motion and all responsive briefing, the Magistrate Judge assigned to this action prepared a thorough Report and Recommendation (“Report”), which opines that the petition is subject to dismissal. (ECF No. 31). The Report sets forth, in detail, the relevant facts and standards of law on this matter, and this Court incorporates those facts and standards without a recitation. Petitioner filed objections to the Report. (ECF No. 34) to which Respondent replied (ECF No. 35). Thus, this matter is ripe for review.

II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to this Court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with the Court. *Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261 (1976). A district court is only required to conduct a de novo review of the specific portions of the Magistrate Judge’s Report to which an objection is made. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); *Carniewski v. W. Virginia Bd. of Prob. & Parole*, 974 F.2d 1330 (4th Cir. 1992). In the absence of specific objections to portions of the Magistrate’s Report, this Court is not required to give an explanation for adopting the recommendation. See *Camby v. Davis*, 718 F.2d 198, 199 (4th Cir. 1983). Thus, the Court must only review those portions of the Report to which Petitioner has made a specific written objection. *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 316 (4th Cir. 2005). Then, the court may accept, reject, or modify the Report or recommit the matter to the magistrate judge. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b). “An objection is specific if it ‘enables the district judge to focus attention on those issues—factual and legal—that are at the heart of the parties’ dispute.’” *Dunlap v. TM Trucking of the Carolinas, LLC*, No. 0:15-cv-04009-JMC, 2017 WL 6345402, at *5 n.6 (D.S.C. Dec. 12, 2017) (citing *One Parcel of Real Prop. Known as 2121 E. 30th St.*, 73 F.3d 1057, 1059 (10th Cir. 1996)). A specific objection to the Magistrate Judge’s Report thus requires more than a reassertion of arguments from the complaint or a mere citation to legal authorities. See *Workman v. Perry*, No. 6:17-cv-00765-RBH, 2017 WL 4791150, at *1 (D.S.C. Oct. 23, 2017). A specific objection must “direct the court to a specific error in the magistrate’s proposed findings and recommendations.” *Orpiano v. Johnson*, 687 F.2d 44, 47 (4th Cir. 1982). “Generally stated, nonspecific objections have the same effect as would a failure to object.” *Staley v. Norton*, No. 9:07-0288-PMD, 2007 WL 821181, at *1 (D.S.C. Mar. 2, 2007) (citing *Howard v. Secretary of Health and Human Services*, 932 F.2d 505, 509 (6th Cir. 1991)). The Court reviews portions “not objected to—including those portions to which only ‘general and conclusory’ objections have been made—for clear error.” *Id.* (citing *Diamond*, 416 F.3d at 315; *Camby*, 718 F.2d at 200; *Orpiano*, 687 F.2d at 47) (emphasis added).

III. DISCUSSION

As stated above, the relevant facts and standards of law on this matter are incorporated from the

Report and therefore no further recitation is necessary here. (ECF No. 31). In short, Petitioner filed this action to request that good time credit removed as punishment for a prior infraction be restored. The Report concluded that Petitioner's claim lacked merit and recommended summary judgment be granted for the Respondent. In response, Petitioner filed "objections" to the Report. (ECF No. 34). When liberally construed, the court is able to discern a single specific objection. In his objection, Petitioner appears to argue that his disciplinary infraction for pressing a duress button should be excused as he was attempting to contact prison officials regarding legal mail. Petitioner references the "handbook for [Federal Correctional Institute] Bennettsville," which he says requires daily mail collection. (ECF No. 34, p. 1). He alleges that Federal Bureau of Prisons ("BOP") staff did not comply with this requirement. *Id.* at 1–2. Petitioner essentially argues that he cannot be disciplined for objecting to this alleged noncompliance. *Id.* Petitioner cites no authority to support such a proposition. Despite Petitioner's arguments, the Report correctly noted that the BOP's alleged noncompliance "does not justify Petitioner's infractions, as found by the DHO." (ECF No. 31, p. 13–14). Petitioner's filing does not address the Report's analysis on this point or point to any clear error. A review of the Report shows that the Magistrate Judge correctly concluded Petitioner is not entitled to habeas relief given the undisputed evidence showing his good time credit was revoked after a fair adjudication of his disciplinary action. Accordingly, Petitioner's objection is overruled.

IV. CONCLUSION

After a thorough review of the Report, the applicable law, and the record of this case, the Court finds no clear error in the Report. After a *de novo* review of each part of the Report to which Plaintiff specifically objected, the Court hereby adopts the Report and Recommendation. (ECF No. 31). For the reasons discussed above and in the Report, Respondent's motion for summary judgment (ECF No. 23) is granted and the Petition is denied. It is further ordered that a certificate of appealability is denied because Petitioner has failed to make "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2).¹ A certificate of appealability will not issue absent "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating IT IS SO ORDERED. March 2, 2026 Joseph F. Anderson, Jr. Columbia, South Carolina United States District Judge that reasonable jurists would find both that his constitutional claims are debatable and that any dispositive procedural rulings by the district court are also debatable or wrong. See *Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003); *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); *Rose v. Lee*, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir. 2001). In the instant matter, the court finds that Petitioner has failed to make "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right."