

UNPUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 03-7642**

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ROBERT ALLAN PAYNE,

Petitioner - Appellant,

versus

GENE JOHNSON, Director of Department of  
Corrections,

Respondent - Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern  
District of Virginia, at Richmond. Henry E. Hudson, District  
Judge. (CA-03-257)

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Submitted: January 29, 2004

Decided: February 9, 2004

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Before WILKINSON, MICHAEL, and KING, Circuit Judges.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Robert Allan Payne, Appellant Pro Se. Eugene Paul Murphy, OFFICE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF VIRGINIA, Richmond, Virginia, for  
Appellee.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.  
See Local Rule 36(c).

PER CURIAM:

Robert Allan Payne, a state prisoner, seeks to appeal the district court's order denying relief on his petition filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2000). The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1) (2000). 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) (2000). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find 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). We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Payne has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before the court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED