

**UNPUBLISHED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 12-6881**

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CLIFFORD THOMPSON,

Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

JON OZMINT, SC Department of Corrections; WARDEN OF BROAD  
RIVER CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION,

Respondents - Appellees.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the District of  
South Carolina, at Columbia. Henry M. Herlong, Jr., Senior  
District Judge. (3:08-cv-02794-HMH)

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Submitted: September 25, 2012

Decided: October 31, 2012

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Before KING and AGEE, Circuit Judges, and HAMILTON, Senior  
Circuit Judge.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Clifford Thompson, Appellant Pro Se. Donald John Zelenka,  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Columbia, South Carolina, for  
Appellees.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Clifford Thompson seeks to appeal the district court's orders accepting the recommendation of the magistrate judge, denying relief on his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2006) petition, and denying his motion for reconsideration. The orders are not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A) (2006). 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) (2006). When the district court denies relief on the merits, a prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims is debatable or wrong. Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); see Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336-38 (2003). When the district court denies relief on procedural grounds, the prisoner must demonstrate both that the dispositive procedural ruling is debatable, and that the petition states a debatable claim of the denial of a constitutional right. Slack, 529 U.S. at 484-85.

We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Thompson has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal. We deny Thompson's motion for transcripts, and 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