

**UNPUBLISHED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 23-6765**

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DEMOND ANTOINE WHITE,

Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

CHADWICK DOTSON, Director of Virginia Department of Corrections,

Respondent - Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, at  
Alexandria. Rossie David Alston, Jr., District Judge. (1:22-cv-00951-RDA-IDD)

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Submitted: January 30, 2024

Decided: February 6, 2024

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Before KING, AGEE, and THACKER, Circuit Judges.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Demond Antoine White, Appellant Pro Se.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Demond Antoine White seeks to appeal the district court's order denying relief on his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 petition. The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A). 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). 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. *Gonzalez v. Thaler*, 565 U.S. 134, 140-41 (2012) (citing *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000)).

Limiting our review of the record to the issues raised in White's informal brief, we conclude that White has not made the requisite showing. *See* 4th Cir. R. 34(b); *see also Jackson v. Lightsey*, 775 F.3d 170, 177 (4th Cir. 2014) ("The informal brief is an important document; under Fourth Circuit rules, our review is limited to issues preserved in that brief."). We therefore deny White's motion for a transcript at government expense, 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 this court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

*DISMISSED*