

**UNPUBLISHED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 25-6963**

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TONY BRYAN SMITH,

Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,

Respondent - Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, at  
Alexandria. Michael Stefan Nachmanoff, District Judge. (1:25-cv-01547-MSN-WBP)

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Submitted: April 23, 2026

Decided: April 28, 2026

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Before NIEMEYER, THACKER, and HARRIS, Circuit Judges.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Tony Bryan Smith, Appellant Pro Se.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Tony Bryan Smith seeks to appeal the district court's order construing his civil complaint as a 28 U.S.C. § 2254 petition and dismissing it as successive and unauthorized. 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, as here, 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)).

We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Smith 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 this court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

*DISMISSED*