

**UNPUBLISHED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 19-7319**

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WILLIAM GREGG,

Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

ROBERT M. STEVENSON,

Respondent - Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, at Florence.  
David C. Norton, District Judge. (4:15-cv-04318-DCN)

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Submitted: November 19, 2019

Decided: November 22, 2019

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Before WILKINSON and RICHARDSON, Circuit Judges, and TRAXLER, Senior Circuit  
Judge.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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William Gregg, Appellant Pro Se. Melody Jane Brown, Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney  
General, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
Columbia, South Carolina, for Appellee.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

William Gregg seeks to appeal the district court's order adopting the recommendation of the magistrate judge and denying relief on his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2012) petition. The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A) (2012). 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) (2012). 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 Gregg has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal. We deny Gregg's motion to appoint counsel and for a bond or release on bail and 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*