

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Richmond Division**

SEAN S. EARL,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 3:21CV294–HEH
)	
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

**MEMORANDUM OPINION
(Dismissing Successive § 2254 Petition)**

Petitioner, a Virginia prisoner proceeding *pro se*, submitted a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, challenging his convictions in the Circuit Court for the City of Portsmouth for murder, malicious wounding, and two counts of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. The Court previously has denied a 28 U.S.C. § 2254 petition filed by Petitioner challenging these convictions. *See Earl v. Virginia*, No. 3:19CV547, 2020 WL 3104514, at *1 (E.D. Va. June 11, 2020).


The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 restricted the jurisdiction of the district courts to hear second or successive applications for federal habeas corpus relief by prisoners attacking the validity of their convictions and sentences by establishing a “gatekeeping mechanism.” *Felker v. Turpin*, 518 U.S. 651, 657 (1996) (internal quotation marks omitted). Specifically, “[b]efore a second or successive application permitted by this section is filed in the district court, the applicant shall move

in the appropriate court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application.” 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A).

The Court has not received authorization from the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit to file the present § 2254 petition. Therefore, the action will be dismissed without prejudice for want of jurisdiction. A certificate of appealability will be denied.

An appropriate Final Order will accompany this Memorandum Opinion.

Date: May 26, 2021
Richmond, Virginia


_____/s/
Henry E. Hudson
Senior United States District Judge