

**UNPUBLISHED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 07-6874**

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CHRISTOPHER SCOTT FRANCIS,

Petitioner - Appellant,

versus

RODERICK SOWERS, Warden, RCI-H; ATTORNEY  
GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND,

Respondents - Appellees.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the District of  
Maryland, at Baltimore. Benson Everett Legg, Chief District Judge.  
(1:05-cv-01709)

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Submitted: January 28, 2008

Decided: May 5, 2008

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Before WILKINSON, TRAXLER, and KING, Circuit Judges.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Christopher Scott Francis, Appellant Pro Se. Edward John Kelley,  
Mary Ann Rapp Ince, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MARYLAND,  
Baltimore, Maryland, for Appellees.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Christopher Scott Francis appeals the district court's order denying relief on his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2000) petition. The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1) (2000). 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) (2000). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that any assessment of the constitutional claims by the district court is debatable or wrong and that any dispositive procedural ruling by the district court is likewise debatable. Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 336-38 (2003); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); Rose v. Lee, 252 F.3d 676, 683-84 (4th Cir. 2001). We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Francis 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 the court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED