

UNPUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 12-6655

MATTHEW THOMAS PICKENS,

Plaintiff - Appellant,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION,

Defendants - Appellees,

and

JANICE GALLI MCLEOD, Associate Director of the USDOJ; KEVIN
FRANK MCDONALD, Assistant US Attorney,

Defendants.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the District of
South Carolina, at Charleston. R. Bryan Harwell, District
Judge. (2:11-cv-01168-RBH)

Submitted: September 27, 2012

Decided: October 1, 2012

Before MOTZ, DAVIS, and WYNN, Circuit Judges.

Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

Matthew Thomas Pickens, Appellant Pro Se. Barbara Murcier
Bowens, Assistant United States Attorney, Columbia, South
Carolina, for Appellee.

Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Matthew Thomas Pickens appeals from the district court's order accepting the magistrate judge's recommendation and denying relief on his civil action based on the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). A party who fails to file specific written objections within ten days waives the right to an appeal. Wright v. Collins, 766 F.2d 841, 845-46 (4th Cir. 1985); United States v. Schronce, 727 F.2d 91, 93-94 (4th Cir. 1984). The requirement to make objections preserves the district court's role as the primary supervisor of magistrate judges, Wright, 766 F.2d at 845, and conserves judicial resources by training the attention of both the district court and the court of appeals upon only those issues that remain in dispute after the magistrate judge has made findings and recommendations. Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 147-48 (1985).

While Pickens timely objected to some portions of the magistrate judge's report, he did not object to the sole issue he raises on appeal: that the magistrate judge improperly found the Defendants withheld some information because of certain FOIA exemptions.* If a party does not file specific written objections to a proposed finding of fact or conclusion of law,

* We only address issues properly raised in Pickens' informal brief. 4th Cir. R. 34(b).

then the party is deemed to have waived his right to appellate review of that particular finding of fact or conclusion of law by the district court. United States v. Midgette, 478 F.3d 616, 621-22 (4th Cir. 2007). This "general waiver rule" is also applicable to general objections to a report and recommendation as a whole. Id. Thus, in order to preserve for appeal an issue in a magistrate judge's report, a party must object to the finding or recommendation on that issue with sufficient specificity so as to reasonably alert the district court of the true ground for the objection. Id. As noted by the district court, Pickens failed to object to the magistrate judge's finding that Defendants properly withheld some information because of FOIA exemptions. Thus, Pickens has waived appellate review of this claim.

Accordingly, Pickens has waived appellate review of his sole issue raised on appeal and we therefore dismiss. 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