

**UNPUBLISHED**

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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**No. 13-7982**

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BRIAN KEITH HART,

Petitioner - Appellant,

v.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS,

Respondent - Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern  
District of Virginia, at Richmond. John A. Gibney, Jr.,  
District Judge. (3:13-cv-00160-JAG)

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Submitted: April 17, 2014

Decided: April 21, 2014

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Before WILKINSON, KING, and DUNCAN, Circuit Judges.

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Dismissed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

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Brian Keith Hart, Appellant Pro Se. Susan Mozley Harris,  
Assistant Attorney General, Richmond, Virginia, for Appellee.

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Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Brian Keith Hart seeks to appeal the district court's order dismissing his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2012) petition as successive. 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) (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 Hart 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