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6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

8 Theodore Cush McDowell,

No. CV11-0716-PHX-DGC

9 Petitioner,

ORDER

10 v.

11 Shelton Richardson,

12 Respondent.
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14 On April 2, 2012, Pro Se Petitioner Theodore Cush McDowell filed a “notice to
15 this Court to consider accepting Petitioner’s notice of appeal from this Court’s new final
16 order entered on February 7, 2012.” Doc. 27. Petitioner stated that he received an order
17 from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on March 27, 2012, informing him that it may
18 not have jurisdiction over his appeal because he had not yet filed a notice of appeal with
19 this Court. Doc. 27 at 1. Petitioner has attached a notice of appeal with a statement
20 declaring that he mailed the notice to this Court from the Adams County Correctional
21 Center on February 13, 2012.

22 Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a)(1)(A) states that, in a civil case, a notice
23 of appeal “must be filed with the district clerk within 30 days after the judgment of the
24 order appealed from.” Fed. R. App. P. 4(a)(1)(A). This rule applies to appeals in a
25 habeas proceeding and is both “mandatory and jurisdictional.” *Browder v. Director,*
26 *Dept. of Corrections of Illinois*, 434 U.S. 257, 264 (1968) (quoting *United States v.*
27 *Robinson*, 361 U.S. 220, 229 (1960)). The Court may extend the time for filing an appeal
28 under Rule 4(a)(5) upon a motion filed within 30 days after the time for filing the notice

1 has expired and upon a showing of “excusable neglect or good cause.” Fed. R. App. P.
2 4(a)(5). Petitioner did not file such a motion and does not ask the Court to extend the
3 time for filing the notice of appeal under Rule 4(a)(5).

4 Rather, Petitioner asserts that his notice was timely because he mailed it on
5 February 13, 2012. Petitioner appears to invoke Rule 4(c)(1), commonly referred to as
6 the “prisoner mailbox rule,” which states:

7 If an inmate confined in an institution files a notice of appeal in
8 either a civil or a criminal case, the notice is timely if it is deposited in the
9 institution's internal mail system on or before the last day for filing. If an
10 institution has a system designed for legal mail, the inmate must use that
11 system to receive the benefit of this rule. Timely filing may be shown by a
12 declaration in compliance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746 or by a notarized
13 statement, either of which must set forth the date of deposit and state that
14 first-class postage has been prepaid.

15 Fed. R. App. P. 4(c)(1).

16 Petitioner provides a statement at the bottom of his attached notice of appeal
17 declaring that he “properly placed my NOTICE OF APPEAL in an envelope and mailed
18 it at Adams County Correctional Center, P.O. Box 1600, Washington, MS 39190, on
19 February 13, 2012.” Doc. 27 at 6. Petitioner does not state whether the Adams County
20 Correctional Center has a system designated for legal mail and whether or not he used
21 that system. Even if Petitioner can show that he used the correct mailing system,
22 Petitioner’s statement does not meet the requirements of Rule 4(c)(1).

23 Petitioner’s statement does not comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, as required by
24 Rule 4(c)(1), because it does not attest to be true “under penalty of perjury.” The
25 statement also fails to state that first-class postage was prepaid as required by
26 Rule 4(c)(1). As the Seventh Circuit stated in *United States v. Craig*, 368 F. 3d 738, 741
27 (7th Cir. 2004), “Rule 4(c)(1) requires the declaration to state only two things; 50% is not
28 enough. The postage requirement is important: mail bearing a stamp gets going, but an
unstamped document may linger. Perhaps that is exactly what happened [in this case].”

Unlike other cases in this Circuit that have applied the “prisoner mailbox rule” to
notices that arrived late but within a reasonable time after the claimed mailing (*see, e.g.,*

1 *Koch v. Ricketts*, 68 F.3d 1191, 1192 (9th Cir. 1995); *Douglas v. Noelle*, 567 F.3d 1103,
2 1106 (9th Cir. 2009)), this Court also has no evidence in the form of a late-arriving notice
3 of appeal that Petitioner ever mailed the notice as he claims. Petitioner argues that his
4 mail previously failed to arrive when he filed objections with this Court to Judge Aspey's
5 Report and Recommendation ("R&R"). Doc. 27 at 1-2. Petitioner then submitted a
6 statement of charges to his inmate account, presumably listing mailing charges associated
7 with his claimed filing (*see* Doc. 17), and the Court accepted for purposes of reviewing
8 Petitioner's objections to the R&R that he had provided evidence of timely filing. *See*
9 Doc. 25 at 1. In this motion, however, Petitioner has submitted no documentation other
10 than his own statement, and has failed to comply with the specific requirements of
11 Rule 4(c)(1). Moreover, this motion does not involve objections to an R&R, but the
12 timeliness of a notice of appeal which is mandatory for appellate court jurisdiction. *See*,
13 *e.g.*, *Browder*, 434 U.S. at 264.

14 Finally, the Court notes that the Ninth Circuit's order required Petitioner to show
15 cause, within 21 days of the order, why the appeal should not be dismissed. Doc. 27 at 4.
16 Petitioner does not claim that he complied with this requirement.

17 Because Petitioner has not complied with the requirements of Rule 4(c)(1) and the
18 Ninth Circuit's order, his motion will be denied.

19 **IT IS ORDERED** that Petitioner's request to file a notice of appeal (Doc. 27) is
20 **denied.**

21 Dated this 1st day of May, 2012.

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26 David G. Campbell
27 United States District Judge
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