

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

JOHNNY FRED MORGAN JR., )  
)  
Petitioner, )  
)  
v. )  
)  
ROBERT HOUSTON, )  
)  
Respondent. )

8:11CV232

**MEMORANDUM  
AND ORDER**

This matter is before the court on Petitioner’s Motion for Appointment of New Counsel. (Filing No. [14](#).) “There is neither a constitutional nor statutory right to counsel in habeas proceedings; instead, [appointment] is committed to the discretion of the trial court.” [McCall v. Benson, 114 F.3d 754, 756 \(8th Cir. 1997\)](#). As a general rule, counsel will not be appointed unless the case is unusually complex or the petitioner’s ability to investigate and articulate the claims is unusually impaired or an evidentiary hearing is required. *See, e.g.,* [Morris v. Dormire, 217 F.3d 556, 558-59 \(8th Cir. 2000\), cert. denied, 531 U.S. 984 \(2000\)](#); [Hoggard v. Purkett, 29 F.3d 469, 471 \(8th Cir. 1994\)](#) (citations omitted). *See also* Rule 8(c) of the [Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts](#) (requiring appointment of counsel if an evidentiary hearing is warranted.) The court has carefully reviewed the record and finds that there is no need for the appointment of counsel at this time.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that: Petitioner’s Motion for Appointment of New Counsel (filing no. [14](#)) is denied.

DATED this 6th day of September, 2011.

BY THE COURT:

*Richard G. Kopf*

United States District Judge

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