

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Richmond Division**

DARRELL WHITLOCK,

Petitioner,

v.

Civil Action No. **3:12CV744**

DIRECTOR, VIRGINIA DOC,

Respondent.

MEMORANDUM OPINION

Petitioner, Darrell Whitlock, a Virginia prisoner proceeding *pro se*, submitted this petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, challenging his 2006 convictions of robbery and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in the Circuit Court for the County of Chesterfield, Virginia. The Court previously dismissed a § 2254 Petition from Whitlock challenging these convictions. *See Whitlock v. Dir., Va. Dep't. Corr.*, No. 3:09-CV-192, 2010 WL 1279088, at *9 (E.D. Va. Mar. 31, 2010).

The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 restricted the jurisdiction of the district courts to hear second or successive applications for federal habeas corpus relief by prisoners attacking the validity of their convictions and sentences by establishing a “‘gatekeeping’ mechanism.” *Felker v. Turpin*, 518 U.S. 651, 657 (1996). Specifically, “[b]efore a second or successive application permitted by this section is filed in the district court, the applicant shall move in the appropriate court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application.” 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A). Because Whitlock has not obtained authorization from the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit to file a successive § 2254 petition challenging his convictions, this Court lacks jurisdiction to entertain the present § 2254 petition. Accordingly, the action will be **DISMISSED FOR LACK OF JURISDICTION**.

An appeal may not be taken from the final order in a § 2254 proceeding unless a judge issues a certificate of appealability (“COA”). 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A). A COA will not issue unless a prisoner makes “a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). This requirement is satisfied only when “reasonable jurists could debate whether (or, for that matter, agree that) the petition should have been resolved in a different manner or that the issues presented were ‘adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further.’” *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000) (quoting *Barefoot v. Estelle*, 463 U.S. 880, 893 n.4 (1983)).

No law or evidence suggests that Whitlock is entitled to further consideration in this matter. A certificate of appealability will be DENIED.

An appropriate Order shall accompany this Memorandum Opinion.

Date: 5-28-13
Richmond, Virginia

<p>/s/ James R. Spencer United States District Judge</p>
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