

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Richmond Division

BRANDON RAY SLAUGHTER,  
Petitioner,

v.

Civil Action No. 3:19cv779 (DJN)

HAROLD W. CLARKE,  
Respondent.

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**


This matter comes before the Court on its own initiative. On October 23, 2019, Petitioner Brandon Ray Slaughter (“Petitioner”), a Virginia state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, submitted a Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. (ECF No. 1.) By Memorandum Order entered on November 26, 2019, the Court directed Petitioner, within eleven (11) days of the date of entry thereof, to pay the \$5.00 filing fee or explain any special circumstances that would warrant excusing payment of the filing fee. (ECF No. 5.) The Court warned Petitioner that it would dismiss the action if Petitioner did not pay the filing fee or explain any special circumstances that would warrant excusing payment of the filing fee. More than eleven (11) days have elapsed since the entry of the Court’s Memorandum Order and Petitioner has not responded. Accordingly, the action will be hereby DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

An appeal may not be taken from the final order in a § 2254 proceeding unless a judge issues a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A). A certificate of appealability 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 Petitioner is entitled to further consideration in this matter. A certificate of appealability will be hereby DENIED.

An appropriate Order shall accompany this Memorandum Opinion.

Let the Clerk file a copy of this Memorandum Opinion, notify all counsel of record, and send a copy to Petitioner at his address of record.

  
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/s/  
David J. Novak  
United States District Judge

Richmond, Virginia  
Date: January 22, 2020