

**United States Court of Appeals
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

No. 00-2372

Edward Maurice Cooper, also known	*	
as Hamid Abdul Wadud,	*	
	*	
Petitioner-Appellant,	*	
	*	Appeal from the United States
v.	*	District Court for the
	*	District of Minnesota.
Gothriel J. LaFleur, Commissioner	*	
of Corrections, MN,	*	(UNPUBLISHED)
	*	
Respondent-Appellee.	*	

Submitted: February 14, 2001

Filed: April 4, 2001

Before RICHARD S. ARNOLD, LAY, and HANSEN, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM.

Edward Cooper was convicted of kidnaping and sexually assaulting a twelve-year-old girl. Cooper has been deaf since childhood. His primary language is American Sign Language (ASL), although he has a rudimentary knowledge of English. Cooper alleges that his attorney, David Redburn, provided ineffective assistance of counsel for two reasons. First, Redburn, who had no experience with deaf individuals,

only had an ASL interpreter present for three pre-trial meetings. These meetings constituted approximately one-third of the total pre-trial meetings. Second, Cooper argues that Redburn had a conflict of interest because the Government's first witness--the victim's mother--was represented in a divorce by one of Redburn's legal partners.

Cooper's petition for post-conviction relief was denied by the Minnesota courts. See Cooper v. State, 565 N.W.2d 27 (Minn. Ct. App. 1997). Cooper then sought a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a) in federal district court, the Honorable John R. Tunheim, presiding. The federal district court denied relief based in part on the Magistrate Judge's report and recommendation. We affirm the dismissal of the petitioner's habeas claim based upon the well-reasoned opinion of the district court. See 8th Cir. R. 47B.

A true copy.

Attest:

CLERK, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, EIGHTH CIRCUIT.