

APPENDIX A

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

FILED

FEB 10 2022

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

JOHNELL LEE CARTER,

Petitioner-Appellant,

v.

HUNTER ANGLEA, Warden,

Respondent-Appellee.

No. 20-17074

D.C. No. 5:19-cv-00429-EJD
Northern District of California,
San Jose

ORDER

Before: S.R. THOMAS and R. NELSON, Circuit Judges.

Appellant has filed a combined motion for reconsideration and motion for reconsideration en banc (Docket Entry No. 5).

The motion for reconsideration is denied and the motion for reconsideration en banc is denied on behalf of the court. *See* 9th Cir. R. 27-10; 9th Cir. Gen. Ord. 6.11.

No further filings will be entertained in this closed case.

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JOHNELL LEE CARTER,

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v.

HUNTER ANGLEA, Warden,

Respondent-Appellee.

No. 20-17074

D.C. No. 5:19-cv-00429-EJD
Northern District of California,
San Jose

ORDER

Before: PAEZ and HURWITZ, Circuit Judges.

The request for a certificate of appealability (Docket Entry No. 2) is denied because appellant has not made a “substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); *see also Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 327 (2003).

Any pending motions are denied as moot.

DENIED.

APPENDIX B

United States District Court
Northern District of California

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOHNELL LEE CARTER,

Petitioner,

v.

HUNTER ANGLEA,

Respondent.

Case No. 19-cv-00429-EJD

**ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS;
DENYING CERTIFICATE OF
APPEALABILITY; DIRECTIONS
TO CLERK**

Petitioner filed a pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging his state conviction. The Court found the petition, Dkt. No. 1, "Petition," stated cognizable claims which merited an answer from Respondent. Dkt. No. 7. Respondent filed an answer on the merits. Dkt. No. 13, "Answer." Petitioner filed a traverse. Dkt. No. 15. For the reasons set forth below, the Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus is **DENIED**.

I. BACKGROUND

Petitioner was found guilty by a jury in Santa Clara County Superior Court ("trial court") of five counts of oral copulation with a child 10 years of age or younger. See People v. Carter, No. H042977, 2018 WL 2316524, at *1 (Cal. Ct. App. May 22, 2018). In a bifurcated trial, the trial court found true an allegation of a prior violent or serious felony conviction. Id. Petitioner was sentenced to five consecutive terms of 30 years to

1 life to be served consecutively to a 25-year term. Id.

2 On May 22, 2018, the California Court of Appeal affirmed the judgment in a
3 reasoned opinion. Id. The California Supreme Court summarily denied a petition for
4 review on August 8, 2018. See Ans., Exs. 7-8.

5 Petitioner filed the instant habeas petition on January 25, 2019.

6 II. DISCUSSION¹

7 A. Legal Standard

8 This Court may entertain a petition for a writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a
9 person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in
10 custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C.
11 § 2254(a); Rose v. Hodges, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975). The writ may not be granted with
12 respect to any claim that was adjudicated on the merits in state court unless the state
13 court’s adjudication of the claim: “(1) resulted in a decision that was contrary to, or
14 involved an unreasonable application of, clearly established Federal law, as determined by
15 the Supreme Court of the United States; or (2) resulted in a decision that was based on an
16 unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented in the State court
17 proceeding.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d).

18 “Under the ‘contrary to’ clause, a federal habeas court may grant the writ if the state
19 court arrives at a conclusion opposite to that reached by [the Supreme] Court on a question
20 of law or if the state court decides a case differently than [the] Court has on a set of
21 materially indistinguishable facts.” Williams v. Taylor, 529 U.S. 362, 412-13 (2000). The
22 only definitive source of clearly established federal law under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d) is in the
23 holdings (as opposed to the dicta) of the Supreme Court as of the time of the state court
24 decision. Williams, 529 U.S. at 412; Brewer v. Hall, 378 F.3d 952, 955 (9th Cir. 2004).

25
26
27 ¹ The underlying facts of the crimes are not relevant to the claims in this case.

1 Richter, 131 S. Ct. 770, 783-85 (2011); Felkner v. Jackson, 131 S. Ct. 1305 (2011) (per
2 curiam). As the Court explained: “[o]n federal habeas review, AEDPA ‘imposes a highly
3 deferential standard for evaluating state-court rulings’ and ‘demands that state-court
4 decisions be given the benefit of the doubt.’” Id. at 1307 (citation omitted). With these
5 principles in mind regarding the standard and limited scope of review in which this Court
6 may engage in federal habeas proceedings, the Court addresses Petitioner’s claims.

7 **B. Claims and Analysis**

8 Petitioner raises the following grounds for federal habeas relief: (1) the trial court
9 erred by denying his motion to represent himself; (2) the trial court erred by denying his
10 motion to change counsel; and (3) under state law he should have been charged with one
11 count of continuous sexual abuse rather than multiple counts of oral copulation with a
12 child. Petition at 5, 15, 26.

13 **Self-Representation**

14 Petitioner first contends that the trial court violated his rights by denying his motion
15 to represent himself pursuant to Faretta v. California, 422 U.S. 806 (1975). Petition at 14.

16 The state appellate court rejected Petitioner’s argument:

17 At the end of a Marsden hearing on May 28, 2015, the court
18 clerk indicated that the matter was scheduled to be put on the
19 “M.T.C.” (Master Trial Calendar) on June 29, 2015, which
20 remained as set.

21 The defense’s motions in limine were filed on July 13, 2015.
22 The People’s witness list and motions in limine were also filed
23 on July 13, 2015. On that date, the court and counsel met
24 informally in chambers to discuss the motions in limine.

25 Later that same day, the trial court stated on the record that the
26 matter had been sent to its department for trial, that counsel for
27 the parties had indicated they were ready for trial, and that both
28 sides had provided the court with their written in limine motions.
The court heard and denied another Marsden motion. Defendant
then indicated that he wanted to bring a Faretta motion. The
court warned that “Faretta motions that are made sort of on the
eve of trial are generally not well received by the court.” It
explained that “at this stage, it’s important for the administration
of justice to continue in a timely manner, especially when you
have a [section] 1048 demand on an alleged child victim.” The

1 been made “weeks before trial,” 422 U.S. at 835, is part of the holding of the Court, and
 2 thus is “clearly established Federal law, as determined by the Supreme Court of the United
 3 States,” for purposes of relief under the current version of 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d). Moore v.
 4 Calderon, 108 F.3d 261, 265 (9th Cir. 1997), overruled on other grounds in Williams v.
 5 Taylor, 529 U.S. 362 (2000). After Moore, we know that Faretta clearly established some
 6 timing element, but we do not know the precise contours of that element beyond the fact
 7 that requests made “weeks before trial” are timely. Marshall v. Taylor, 395 F.3d 1058,
 8 1061 (9th Cir. 2005).² Because the Supreme Court has not clearly established when a
 9 Faretta request is untimely, other courts, including state courts, are free to do so, as long as
 10 they comport with the Supreme Court’s holding that a request made “weeks before trial” is
 11 timely. Id. (holding that California court was not “contrary to” clearly established
 12 Supreme Court law under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d) when it found that petitioner’s Faretta
 13 request on the first day of trial before jury selection untimely).

14 A request to represent oneself “need not be granted if it is intended merely as a
 15 tactic for delay.” United States v. Flewitt, 874 F.2d 669, 674 (9th Cir. 1989). A court may
 16 consider (1) the effect of any resulting delay on the proceedings, and (2) events preceding
 17 the motion, to determine whether they were consistent with a good faith assertion of the
 18 Faretta right and whether the defendant could reasonably be expected to have made the
 19 motion at an earlier time. Avila v. Roe, 298 F.3d 750, 753-54 (9th Cir. 2002) (remanding
 20 for evidentiary hearing, where district court failed to consider first factor and failed to give
 21 any weight to state appellate court’s findings regarding second factor); see also Hirschfield
 22 v. Payne, 420 F.3d 922, 927 (9th Cir. 2005) (holding that it was not unreasonable for the
 23

24
 25 ² In Moore, the Ninth Circuit discussed a bright-line rule for the timeliness of Faretta
 26 requests: a request is timely if made before the jury is empaneled, unless it is shown to be a
 27 tactic to secure delay. 108 F.3d at 264-65. However, the Ninth Circuit has not applied
 28 Moore’s bright-line rule as “clearly established” Supreme Court law for the purposes of 28
 U.S.C. § 2254(d). See Marshall, 395 F.3d at 1059, 1062 (state court’s determination that
 petitioner’s Faretta request made on the day of trial, but before jury selection, was
 untimely, was not “contrary to” clearly established federal law under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d)).

1 light of the exacting standard described above. See generally Randle v. California, 142 F.
2 App'x 977 (9th Cir. 2005) (state court did not err in denying as untimely a Farretta motion
3 made two weeks prior to the beginning of trial, and employing the balancing of factors
4 identified in state court case was not an unreasonable application of established federal
5 law).

6 The denial of the first Faretta motion occurred the day before jury selection and
7 immediately after the attorneys had filed motions in limine and the prosecution had filed
8 its witness list. Petitioner renewed the request a few days later, after the jury selection
9 process had already begun. These requests could not be considered "weeks before trial."
10 Moreover, in denying the claim, the California Court of Appeal also considered the other
11 evidence surrounding the request, which is permissible. Avila, 298 F.3d at 753-54 (a court
12 may consider (1) the effect of any resulting delay on the proceedings, and (2) events
13 preceding the motion, to determine whether they were consistent with a good faith
14 assertion of the Faretta right and whether the defendant could reasonably be expected to
15 have made the motion at an earlier time). The state court noted that Petitioner had
16 previously stated that he could not represent himself and that the trial court had observed
17 when denying the first request that Petitioner was not prepared to try the case at that time.

18 The denial of the Faretta motion was not objectively unreasonable based on the
19 requests being made the day before jury selection was set to begin and after the jury
20 selection process had begun. These requests made on the "eve of trial" were properly
21 denied, and Petitioner is not entitled to relief. See Andrews v. Montgomery, 736 F. App'x
22 697, 698 (9th Cir. 2018) (state court reasonably found that Faretta motion made on "eve of
23 trial" was untimely).

24 Substitution of Counsel

25 Petitioner next argues that the trial court erred by denying his multiple requests for
26 substitution of counsel pursuant to People v. Marsden, 2 Cal. 3d 118 (1970). Petition at
27 15.

1 a city other than San Jose. He also wanted Dawson to
2 investigate a San Jose police officer and to get some information
3 as to "the changing of the ownership of [defendant's] vehicle."
4 Dawson indicated that he had written down everything that
5 defendant had told him during their meeting and that he was
6 going to look into each item if relevant to the case. Dawson
7 indicated that defendant was a difficult client in that he argued
8 instead of answering questions.

9 At the end of the hearing on December 19, 2014, the trial court
10 concluded that Dawson was providing effective assistance of
11 counsel and that the attorney-client relationship had not broken
12 down to the extent that defendant and Dawson were unable to
13 communicate. The court denied the motion.

14 The minutes for February 20, 2015, the date then set for the
15 preliminary examination, reflected that Dawson was the
16 attorney of record. Dawson represented defendant at the
17 February 20, 2015 preliminary hearing. After the preliminary
18 hearing, with only defendant and his counsel present, defendant
19 complained that he had previously requested a Marsden hearing.
20 The court asked whether defendant would like to proceed with a
21 Marsden hearing. Defendant indicated he was not prepared to
22 proceed at that time. A Marsden hearing was set for March 18,
23 2015 in accordance with defendant's wishes.

24 The information was filed on February 28, 2015.

25 The minutes for March 2, 2015, indicate that DPD Diederichs
26 appeared for Dawson on behalf of defendant and that defendant
27 waived arraignment and entered a plea of not guilty. On March
28 18, 2015, the Marsden hearing was ordered off calendar because
defendant had escaped from custody.

On May 28, 2015, after defendant's return to custody, the trial
court held a closed Marsden hearing to consider defendant's
reasons for wishing to discharge Dawson as his appointed
counsel. Defendant told the court that Dawson had "personally
insulted" him and "taunted [him] disrespectfully." He
complained that Dawson and he had discussed his case one time
and that Dawson had not provided him with requested
information about his case.

Defendant was also unhappy that Dawson had not subpoenaed
two witnesses for the preliminary hearing because defendant had
prepared "a list of questions to ask the victim and a witness" and
asked Dawson to subpoena them. Dawson had said, "[L]et's
wait and see if they show up to court." Defendant also
complained that although Dawson had asked one of his proposed
questions at the preliminary hearing, Dawson's follow-up
question "elicit[ed] a secondary answer" that "sabotage[d]
[defendant's] question altogether." Defendant stated that
Dawson had not helped him, was being disrespectful and was
offending him on "a personal level," and did not have his best

1 because defendant was accusing him of not understanding the
2 case. Defendant had not agreed to Dawson's request that he
3 submit to a psychological evaluation. Dawson told the court that
4 regardless of defendant's custody status, defendant had access
5 to a phone and could call him and that he had received no letters
6 from defendant. Dawson told the court that he had started
7 providing case updates by letter, which he thought might be
8 more productive because their conversations "devolved into"
9 personal attacks by defendant and accusations that Dawson did
10 not know anything about the case.

11 Dawson believed that he could vigorously defend defendant and
12 continue to work hard on the case. He already had nine
13 witnesses to testify on defendant's behalf. Dawson explained
14 that he had not called defendant a jerk, but rather had advised
15 defendant to testify at trial and cautioned that defendant could
16 not "come off like a jerk" to the jury. Defendant had responded
17 by accusing Dawson of calling him a jerk and walking out of
18 their meeting. Dawson indicated that defendant could be more
19 helpful in his own defense. Dawson still thought defendant
20 should testify, and Dawson wanted to "practice certain things"
21 with defendant but defendant had not allowed that to happen so
22 far. Dawson told the court that he had explained to defendant
23 that defendant's evidentiary concerns would be addressed at
24 trial, but defendant did not accept his explanation. Dawson had
25 prepared motions in limine to address some of defendant's
26 concerns.

27 At the end of the hearing, the trial court explained that
28 defendant's distrust of and lack of confidence in Dawson were
not dispositive. The court indicated that counsel's diligence was
pertinent, and the court had seen the motions in limine. The
court denied the Marsden motion.

Defendant filed a written Marsden motion on July 14, 2015. In
a form declaration, defendant claimed that counsel "failed
and/or refused" to confer with him concerning preparation of the
defense, to communicate with him, to subpoena favorable
witnesses, to perform critical investigation, to present or prepare
an affirmative defense at the preliminary hearing, to secure and
present expert witnesses critical to the defense, to prepare and
file critical motions, to impeach prosecution witnesses, to
present critical evidence, and "to declare prejudice and/or
conflict" against him, and that counsel and he had "become
embroiled in irreconcilable conflict."

At the closed Marsden hearing held on July 14, 2015, defendant
reiterated some of his grievances with Dawson, he asserted that
Dawson and he had "become embroiled in [an] irreconcilable
conflict," and he asked the court to reconsider its previous
Marsden ruling. He also complained that Dawson had not
considered filing a change of venue motion. Defendant told the
court that he was ignorant of the law and there was "no possible
way [he] could represent [himself]."

1 the alleged victim was lying to get defendant out of her home
2 because defendant physically disciplined her. Defendant
3 asserted that he was not an "over[ly] disciplinary-type person,"
4 that the alleged victim was never scared of him, and that such
5 defense would put him in the position of having to commit
6 perjury. Dawson described the defense theory and made plain
7 that he never suggested that defendant perjure himself.

8 Defendant also complained that Dawson had failed to put his
9 two marriage counselors on the defense witness list. Dawson
10 indicated that he was thinking that the male counselor could
11 provide helpful testimony, but that the female counselor had not
12 been interviewed so the helpfulness of her testimony was
13 speculative.

14 Defendant said that he had tried to bring it to Dawson's attention
15 that his theft conviction was over 10 years old. Dawson
16 indicated that defendant was confusing prison priors and strike
17 convictions with criminal convictions that the prosecution could
18 use to impeach defendant.

19 Defendant complained that he did not have a transcript of the
20 preliminary hearing. Dawson said that defendant had escaped
21 after the preliminary hearing, that he did not know that
22 defendant did not have the transcript, and that he would provide
23 a copy to defendant that day.

24 Defendant indicated that he wanted a motion for change of
25 venue to be brought. The court told defendant that such motion
26 would be futile and frivolous because the jury had been selected
27 and none of them knew about the charges or his escape.

28 Defendant claimed that Dawson had "failed to investigate
potentially exculpatory evidence that [could] be used to impeach
key prosecution witnesses." When asked for details, defendant
again referred to his marriage counselors. With respect to the
female counselor, the court told defendant that "it would be
foolish to put somebody on the witness stand" if the person
"won't even talk to you" and had not been interviewed.

At the end of the Marsden hearing on July 21, 2015, the trial
court denied the motion. Later the same day, counsel made their
opening statements in the case.

On July 22, 2015, defendant made another Marsden motion and
the court held a closed hearing. Defendant complained that
Dawson refused to assert Evidence Code section 352 against the
admission of "every piece" of adverse evidence and that such
objections should have been raised in a motion in limine. The
court explained the application of that code section. The court
also explained that it was up to defense counsel, who was in
charge of the case, to decide whether to object to evidence.
Without providing any further specific examples, defendant
claimed that his relationship with Dawson was "eroded long

1 In response, Dawson indicated that he had spent four hours with
2 defendant talking about the case the previous Friday, that he had
3 lined up certain witnesses, whom he named, and that he was
4 continuing to prepare the case. The trial court concluded that
5 defendant essentially disagreed with some of defense counsel's
6 strategy and tactics. The court denied the Marsden motion.

7 By written order filed on July 30, 2015, the trial court struck the
8 statement of disqualification filed against the judge because on
9 its face, the statement disclosed no legal grounds for
10 disqualification. (See Code Civ. Proc., §§ 170.1, 170.3, 170.4,
11 subd. (b)). The order stated that defendant's claim of judicial
12 bias was "based solely upon the court's denial of defendant's
13 Marsden motions."

14 On August 3, 2015, the jury returned its guilty verdicts.

15 On August 5, 2015, Dawson filed a Romero motion (see People
16 v. Superior Court (Romero) (1996) 13 Cal. 4th 497 (Romero))
17 on behalf of defendant.

18 On August 28, 2015, the court heard another Marsden motion.
19 The hearing was continued to August 31, 2015.

20 On August 31, 2015, defendant indicated that he was upset for
21 several reasons, including that Dawson had previously indicated
22 to the court that he would not be filing a Romero motion, that
23 Dawson had instructed the probation department not to
24 interview him for its sentencing report, and that Dawson had
25 failed to challenge the trial court's order striking the motion to
26 disqualify the judge.

27 In response, Dawson explained that he had decided, after
28 consulting a research attorney in the Public Defender's Office,
that a writ challenging the order striking the statement of
disqualification would have been meritless and frivolous.
Dawson acknowledged that he had directed the probation officer
not to speak with defendant because it was his experience that a
defendant's denial of responsibility in a sexual offense case is
later used against the defendant in a parole hearing. He
explained that the downside of making such statement was
"huge" while the upside was "possibly imaginary" given the
mandatory sentencing in the case. After the court indicated that
defendant had a right to be heard at sentencing, Dawson agreed
that defendant should have the opportunity to speak to probation
if he wished, but Dawson made it clear that defendant would be
doing so against his advice. The court denied defendant's
Marsden motion.

The trial court subsequently, in a closed hearing, further
explained to defendant that Dawson had filed a Romero motion
as requested by defendant and that Dawson's decision not to file
a writ petition challenging the order striking the statement of
disqualification was not based on Dawson's animus toward

1 428 F.3d 1181, 1197-98 (9th Cir. 2005) (noting that test for determining whether court
2 should have granted substitution motion is same as test for determining whether an
3 irreconcilable conflict existed); see, e.g., United States v. Velazquez, 855 F.3d 1021, 1035-
4 37 (9th Cir. 2017) (district court abused its discretion by denying defendant's request to
5 substitute counsel without conducting any meaningful inquiry after defendant did
6 everything in her power to alert court to significant breakdown); United States v. Moore,
7 159 F.3d 1154, 1160 (9th Cir. 1998) (where irreconcilable conflict existed between
8 defendant and counsel, trial court's failure to appoint substitute counsel was reversible
9 error); Crandell v. Bunnell, 144 F.3d 1213, 1215-18 (9th Cir. 1998) (denial of substitute
10 counsel violated 6th Amendment where appointed counsel failed for months to investigate
11 case and to develop relationship with defendant), overruled on other grounds by Schell v.
12 Witek, 218 F.3d 1017 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc).

13 The denial of a motion to substitute counsel implicates a defendant's Sixth
14 Amendment right to counsel and is properly considered in federal habeas. Bland v. Cal.
15 Dep't of Corr., 20 F.3d 1469, 1475 (9th Cir. 1994), overruled on other grounds by Schell
16 v. Witek, 218 F.3d 1017 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc). The Ninth Circuit has held that when a
17 defendant voices a seemingly substantial complaint about counsel, the trial judge should
18 make a thorough inquiry into the reasons for the defendant's dissatisfaction. Id. at 1475-
19 76. The inquiry need only be as comprehensive as the circumstances reasonably would
20 permit, however. King v. Rowland, 977 F.2d 1354, 1357 (9th Cir. 1992) (record may
21 demonstrate that extensive inquiry was not necessary).

22 Under Ninth Circuit precedent, to compel a criminal defendant to undergo a trial
23 with the assistance of an attorney with whom he has become embroiled in irreconcilable
24 conflict is to deprive the defendant of any counsel whatsoever. Daniels, 428 F.3d at 1197;
25 see, e.g., id. at 1197-1201 (finding constructive denial of counsel where defendant's
26 distrust of counsel was "understandable" and resulted in complete breakdown in the
27 communication between defendant and counsel; complete breakdown in communication
28

1 communication were open and counsel was competent); United States v. Prime, 431 F.3d
2 1147, 1155 (9th Cir. 2005) (inquiry was adequate where defendant “was given the
3 opportunity to express whatever concerns he had, and the court inquired as to [defense
4 attorney’s] commitment to the case and his perspective on the degree of communication”).

5 The majority of Petitioner’s Marsden motions involved disagreements concerning
6 trial tactics, which are the responsibility of trial counsel. Even the trial court in several of
7 the Marsden hearings informed Petitioner that certain tactics he had proposed to his trial
8 counsel were frivolous and that his trial counsel was correct in not pursuing them.
9 Eventually, Petitioner also sought to have the trial judge removed for bias.

10 Even though there was conflict between Petitioner and trial counsel, a thorough
11 review of the record does not demonstrate a breakdown in communications between them.
12 This was shown by the fact that defense counsel was able to mount a competent and
13 complete defense. Trial counsel filed all the relevant and applicable motions and called
14 numerous witnesses at trial including character witnesses and impeachment witnesses.
15 Most importantly, Petitioner himself testified.

16 Petitioner was not satisfied with his first attorney and was appointed a different
17 public defender. Petitioner continued to voice his discontent with the new trial counsel but
18 has failed to cite to examples of an irreconcilable conflict. In the individual hearings,
19 when Petitioner cited specific examples of conflict, the trial counsel explained the specific
20 reasons for his trial tactics and decisions. Trial counsel’s explanations were all reasonable.
21 Nor does Petitioner cite to additional actions that trial counsel should have taken at trial.
22 Under the circumstances of this case and after a review of the extensive background and
23 numerous Marsden hearings, the trial court was not unreasonable in concluding that
24 Petitioner’s trial counsel was providing competent representation. The ruling of the
25 California Court of Appeal to the same effect was not an unreasonable application of
26 Supreme Court authority or an unreasonable determination of the facts. This claim is
27 denied.

1 parsing” to find that the evidence was insufficient to support petitioner’s conviction). A
2 federal court reviewing collaterally a state court conviction does not determine whether it
3 is satisfied that the evidence established guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Payne v. Borg,
4 982 F.2d 335, 338 (9th Cir. 1992); see, e.g., Coleman, 566 U.S. at 656 (“the only question
5 under Jackson is whether [the jury’s finding of guilt] was so insupportable as to fall below
6 the threshold of bare rationality”). The federal court “determines only whether, ‘after
7 viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, any rational trier of
8 fact could have found the essential elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt.’”
9 Payne, 982 F.2d at 338 (quoting Jackson, 443 U.S. at 319). Only if no rational trier of fact
10 could have found proof of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt has there been a due process
11 violation. Jackson, 443 U.S. at 324; Payne, 982 F.2d at 338.

12 The Jackson standard must be applied with reference to the substantive elements of
13 the criminal offense as defined by state law. Jackson, 443 U.S. at 324 n.16; see, e.g.,
14 Boyer v. Belleque, 659 F.3d 957, 968 (9th Cir. 2011) (concluding it was not unreasonable,
15 in light of Oregon case law, for Oregon court to conclude that a rational jury could find
16 beyond a reasonable doubt that petitioner intended to kill his victim based on proof that he
17 anally penetrated several victims with knowledge that he could infect them with AIDS).
18 The state court’s ruling on the state law issue is binding on this Court. The “minimum
19 amount of evidence that the Due Process Clause requires to prove the offense is purely a
20 matter of federal law.” Coleman, 566 U.S. at 655.

21 The Court has reviewed the records and the evidence in this case. The victim
22 testified about extensive sexual abuse by Petitioner. Reporter’s Transcript at 817-81.
23 While there was not overwhelming evidence, viewing the evidence in the light most
24 favorable to the prosecution, the jury could have found the essential elements of the crime
25 beyond a reasonable doubt. That the jury chose to credit the victim’s testimony and not
26 Petitioner’s testimony does not entitle him to federal habeas relief. This claim is denied.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOHNELL LEE CARTER,
Petitioner,

v.

HUNTER ANGLEA,
Respondent.


Case No. 19-cv-00429-EJD

JUDGMENT

The instant petition for writ of habeas corpus has been denied on the merits. Judgment is entered in favor of Respondent. Petitioner shall take nothing by way of his petition. The Clerk shall close the file.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 9/11/2020


EDWARD J. DAVILA
United States District Judge

United States District Court
Northern District of California