

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
NORTHERN DIVISION

ROY PIERCE SNOWDEN,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v	)	Civil Action No.2:08cv665-TMH
	)	(WO)
J.A. KELLER,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

This cause is before the court on a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 petition for habeas corpus relief filed on or around August 8, 2008, by federal inmate Roy Pierce Snowden (“Snowden”). Snowden argues that a Federal Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”) decision excluding him from participation in the Residential Drug Abuse Program violates his constitutional rights.

**DISCUSSION**

In his pleadings, Snowden concedes that he has not yet exhausted his available administrative remedies with respect to the claims presented in his petition. (*See* Doc. No. 2 at p. 3.) A federal prisoner who requests habeas corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 must first exhaust his administrative remedies before seeking relief from this court. *Gonzalez v. United States*, 959 F.2d 211 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1992). The BOP has established regulations that set forth the procedures that a prisoner must follow before seeking relief from a district court. *See* 28 C.F.R. §§ 542.10 *et seq.*; *United States v. Lucas*, 898 F.2d 1554, 1556 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990). These regulations govern formal review of inmate complaints relating to any aspect

of their imprisonment and specify the procedures that inmates must pursue before attempting to seek relief in federal court. *United States v. Herrera*, 931 F.2d 761, 764 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991). If, and only if, an inmate has pursued his administrative remedy may he seek relief in federal court. *Id.* “Exhaustion of administrative remedies is jurisdictional” when a petition is filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 for release from federal prison. *Gonzalez*, 959 F.2d at 212; *Winck v. England*, 327 F.3d 1296, 1300 n.1 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003).

This court does not deem it appropriate to rule on the merits of Snowden’s claims without first requiring that he exhaust available administrative procedures established by the BOP. Consequently, the Magistrate Judge concludes that the petition for habeas corpus relief should be dismissed without prejudice so that Snowden can pursue his available administrative remedies.

### CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge that this case be dismissed without prejudice to afford Snowden an opportunity to exhaust his administrative remedies in accordance with the procedures established by the BOP.

It is further

ORDERED that the parties shall file any objections to the said Recommendation **on or before September 23, 2008**. Any objections filed must specifically identify the findings in the Magistrate Judge’s Recommendation to which the party is objecting. Frivolous, conclusive or general objections will not be considered by the District Court. The parties are

