

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

DONNETTA COLE, #132282,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:09-CV-307-TMH
	)	[WO]
CYNTHIA S. WHEELER-WHITE, et al.,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

This case is pending before the court on a 28 U.S.C. § 2254 petition for habeas corpus relief filed by Donnetta Cole [“Cole”], a state inmate, on April 7, 2009.<sup>1</sup> In this petition, Cole challenges the constitutionality of the sentences imposed upon her by the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Alabama for felony convictions of first degree arson and first degree assault.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Although the Clerk of this court stamped the present petition “filed” on April 8, 2009, Cole certified she placed the petition in the prison mail on April 7, 2009. *Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus - Court Doc. No. 1* at 15. The law is well settled that a pro se inmate’s petition is deemed filed the date it is delivered to prison officials for mailing. *Houston v. Lack*, 487 U.S. 266, 271-272 (1988); *Adams v. United States*, 173 F.3d 1339, 1340-41 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999); *Garvey v. Vaughn*, 993 F.2d 776, 780 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1993). “Absent evidence to the contrary in the form of prison logs or other records, [this court] must assume that [the instant petition] was delivered to prison authorities the day” Cole stated such occurred. *Washington v. United States*, 243 F.3d 1299, 1301 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2001). In light of the foregoing, the court considers April 7, 2009 as the date of filing.

<sup>2</sup>Cole also references a recent denial of parole and seeks a reason for such denial as she believes her prison accomplishments entitle her to release on parole. *Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus - Court Doc. No. 1* at 8, 14. However, the law is well settled that an inmate has no constitutionally protected interest in being granted parole. *Monroe v. Thigpen*, 932 F.2d 1437, 1441 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991); *Ellard v. Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles*, 824 F.2d 937 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1987); *Thomas v. Sellers*, 691 F.2d 487, 489 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1982). Consequently, there is no constitutional requirement that written reasons for denial be given. *See, e.g., Irving v. Thigpen*, 732 F.2d 1215 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1984). Moreover, the Alabama parole statutes do not require that the plaintiff be furnished with any reason as to why the parole board decided to deny parole. Thus, the failure to provide such information does not implicate the Constitution. The presence of this parole claim therefore does not prevent the transfer of the instant petition.

## DISCUSSION

This court “in the exercise of its discretion and in furtherance of justice” may transfer an application for writ of habeas corpus to “the district court for the district within which the State court was held which convicted” the petitioner. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d). Cole attacks the provisions of sentences imposed upon her by the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Alabama. Jefferson County is located within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. In light of the foregoing, the court concludes that transfer of this case to such other court for review and disposition is appropriate.<sup>3</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge that this case be transferred to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d).<sup>4</sup>

It is further

ORDERED that on or before April 27, 2009 the parties may file objections to the Recommendation. Any objections filed must specifically identify the findings in the Magistrate Judge's Recommendation to which the party is objecting. Frivolous, conclusive

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<sup>3</sup>In transferring this case, the court makes no determination regarding the merits of the petitioner's claims for relief challenging the constitutionality of her Jefferson County sentences nor whether the petitioner has exhausted available state court remedies with respect to each of her claims for relief prior to filing a federal habeas petition as required by 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(1)(A).

<sup>4</sup>The petitioner filed neither the requisite filing fee nor an affidavit in support of a request for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. However, under the circumstances of this case, matters related to the petitioner's *in forma pauperis* status, including the assessment and collection of any filing fee, should be undertaken by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. Thus, this court will not address the petitioner's failure to submit documents necessary to a determination of her *in forma pauperis* status.

