

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

KENNETH KNIGHT TOLER, #191089)
)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
)
v.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:08-CV-77-MHT
)
 [WO]
)
)
SHERIFF JAY JONES,)
)
)
Defendant.)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE

In this 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action, Kenneth Knight Toler [“Toler”], a convicted prisoner incarcerated in the Lee County Detention Center, complains that the defendant is violating his constitutional rights by failing to transfer him to the state prison system where various rehabilitative programs are offered to inmates. He seeks immediate transfer to the Alabama prison system. *Plaintiff’s Complaint - Court Doc. No. 1* at 4. Toler names Jay Jones, the sheriff of Lee County, Alabama, as the sole defendant in this cause of action.

Upon review of the complaint, the court concludes that the instant complaint is due to be dismissed prior to service of process in accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).¹

¹A prisoner who is allowed to proceed *in forma pauperis* in this court will have his complaint screened in accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). This screening procedure requires the court to dismiss any claim presented in a prisoner’s civil action prior to service of process if it determines that the claim is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary damages from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i)-(iii).

DISCUSSION

A. Challenge to County Confinement

Toler contends his constitutional rights are being violated by his confinement in a county detention center. Specifically, Toler complains that despite reinstatement of his sentence on October 23, 2007 he has not yet been transferred to the state prison system.

Plaintiff's Complaint - Court Doc. No. 1 at 3. This claim is without merit.

A convicted prisoner has no constitutionally protected right to confinement in a particular penal facility. *Meachum v. Fano*, 427 U.S. 215, 224 (1976). Thus, an inmate may be confined in any correctional facility without implicating the prisoner's constitutional rights. *Id.*; *see also Montanye v. Haymes*, 427 U.S. 236, 242 (1976). The plaintiff's confinement in the Lee County Detention Center, although it may entail "more burdensome conditions [than that of a state prison], [is] 'within the normal limits or range of custody which the conviction has authorized the State to impose.' [Meachum, 427 U.S. at 225]; *see also Montanye v. Haymes*, 427 U.S. 236, 242, 96 S.Ct. 2543, 2547, 49 L.Ed.2d 466 (1976)."

Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472, 478 (1995).

In light of the foregoing, it is clear that the failure to transfer Toler to the custody of the Alabama Department of Corrections does not rise to the level of a constitutional violation and therefore provides no basis for relief in this 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action. Consequently, this claim is subject to summary dismissal pursuant to the directives of 28

U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

B. Favorable Programs

Toler contends that he is not provided access to rehabilitative and educational opportunities which are available to inmates confined in the state prison system. *Plaintiff's Complaint - Court Doc. No. 1* at 3. The law is well settled that an inmate has no constitutionally protected interest in rehabilitative or educational programs as the failure to place an inmate in such program does not impose "atypical and significant hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life." *Sandin*, 515 U.S. at 484. Thus, Toler's claim of entitlement to favorable prison programs is indisputably meritless as it alleges "infringement of a legal interest which clearly does not exist" and is subject to dismissal as frivolous within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i). *See Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319 (1989).²

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge that this case be dismissed with prejudice prior to service of process pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

It is further

ORDERED that on or before February 21, 2008 the parties may file objections to the Recommendation. Any objections filed must specifically identify the findings in the

²Although *Neitzke* interpreted the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d), the precursor to § 1915(e)(2), the analysis contained therein remains applicable to the directives contained in the present statute.

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 advised that this Recommendation is not a final order of the court and, therefore, it is not appealable.

Failure to file written objections to the proposed findings and advisements in the Magistrate Judge's Recommendation shall bar the party from a de novo determination by the District Court of issues covered in the Recommendation and shall bar the party from attacking on appeal factual findings in the Recommendation accepted or adopted by the District Court except upon grounds of plain error or manifest injustice. *Nettles v. Wainwright*, 677 F.2d 404 (5th Cir. 1982). See *Stein v. Reynolds Securities, Inc.*, 667 F.2d 33 (11th Cir. 1982). See also *Bonner v. City of Prichard*, 661 F.2d 1206 (11th Cir. 1981, *en banc*), adopting as binding precedent all of the decisions of the former Fifth Circuit handed down prior to the close of business on September 30, 1981.

Done this 7th day of February, 2008.

/s/ Wallace Capel, Jr.
WALLACE CAPEL, JR.
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE