

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA  
Wheeling**

**ANTONY ANTONIO SHEPHARD,**

Petitioner,

v.

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 5:20-CV-183**  
Judge Bailey

**PAUL ADAMS,**

Respondent.

**MEMORANDUM AND OPINION**

Before the Court is the petitioner's *pro se* habeas petition filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The petitioner is incarcerated at FCI Hazelton and is seeking release to home confinement due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On August 9, 2007, the petitioner was named in a single count criminal information, charging possession of 5 grams or more of crack cocaine, with intent to distribute, and aiding and abetting, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2. On September 10, 2007, the petitioner waived Indictment, and pleaded guilty to the criminal information, pursuant to a plea agreement. On August 19, 2008, the petitioner was sentenced to 264 months incarceration to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. The Petitioner's current projected release date via a good conduct time is July 18, 2026.

On August 24, 2020, the petitioner filed this § 2241 petition asking the Court to provide compassionate release to home confinement, citing his medical circumstances and the COVID-19 pandemic as the basis for his request.

## II. ANALYSIS

Courts are receiving release requests under two distinct statutory “mechanisms” during the current pandemic—the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) and what is often referred to as the “compassionate release” framework set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A). In the instant matter, the petitioner refers to the “Compassionate Release bill,” making it difficult to discern which mechanism he is asserting as a basis for his petition for release, so the Court will address each in turn.

### A. CARES Act

First, Section 12003 of the CARES Act presently and temporarily provides for expanded prisoner home confinement under the framework set out in 18 U.S.C. § 3624(c). Cares Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (2020). The CARES Act places decision-making authority solely within the discretion of the Attorney General and the Director of the Bureau of Prisons. Courts therefore do not have power to grant relief under Section 12003 of the CARES Act.

### B. 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A)(ii)

Alternatively, 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A)(i) allows district courts to consider prisoner motions for sentence reduction upon a finding of “extraordinary and compelling reasons.” However, it is clear that the petitioner is unable to proceed under this mechanism in a § 2241 in this district, because courts in this Circuit and elsewhere have consistently found that such a request must instead be brought in the sentencing court. See, e.g., **Robinson v. Wilson**, 2017 WL 5586981, at \*5 (S.D. W.Va. Sept. 26, 2017) (Eifert, M.J.) (“Like a § 2255 motion, a § 3582 motion must be filed in the movant’s underlying criminal action and

be addressed by the sentencing court.”), *report and recommendation adopted*, 2017 WL 5586272 (S.D. W.Va. Nov. 20, 2017) (Faber, J.); ***Deffenbaugh v. Sullivan***, 2019 WL 1779573, at \*2 (E.D.N.C. Apr. 23, 2019) (Flanagan, J.) (“If petitioner now seeks to file his own motion for § 3582 compassionate release, such a motion must be filed in the sentencing court.”); ***Allah v. Fed. Bureau of Prisons Dir.***, 2016 WL 5868093, at \*4 (D.S.C. Sept. 12, 2016) (Marchant, M.J.) (same) (collecting cases), *report and recommendation adopted*, 2016 WL 5851936 (D.S.C. Oct. 6, 2016) (Hendricks, J.); ***Himmel v. Upton***, 2019 WL 1112923, at \*2 n.6 (N.D. Tex. Mar. 11, 2019) (“[A]ny motion for compassionate release under the newly amended provision of 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) should be filed in the sentencing court.”); ***Braswell v. Gallegos***, 82 F. App’x 633, 635 (10th Cir. 2003) (“Because a motion filed under § 3582 requests modification of a sentence, it follows that such a motion must be filed in the district court which imposed the sentence.”).

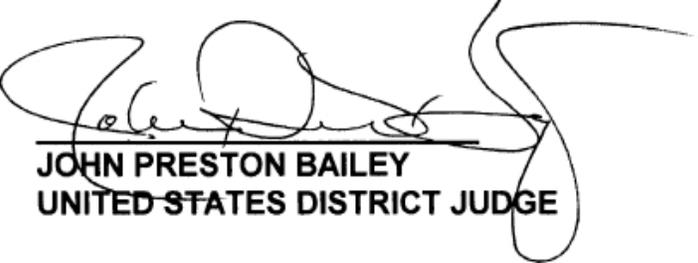
### III. Conclusion

Because the Court does not have the power to order home confinement under the CARES Act, and the petitioner was not sentenced in the Northern District of West Virginia, this Court does not have jurisdiction over this matter. Accordingly, this case is hereby **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**. The petitioner’s Motion for Leave to Proceed *in forma pauperis* [Doc. 2] is **GRANTED**. The petitioner is advised that if he desires to have a court review his compassionate release request, he must file a § 3582 motion with the Court that sentenced him.

It is so **ORDERED**.

The Clerk is directed to mail a copy of this Order to the *pro se* petitioner by certified mail, return receipt requested.

**DATED:** September 1, 2020.



**JOHN PRESTON BAILEY**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**