

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

BLUEFIELD DIVISION

KALEB MERRITT,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 1:24-00590
)	
WARDEN,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

On October 18, 2024, Petitioner, acting *pro se*, filed what this Court construed as a letter-form Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. (Document No. 1.) Specifically, Petitioner argues that staff at FCI McKean are improperly denying him placement in a “halfway house.” (Id.)


Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241(a), a writ of habeas corpus “may be granted by the Supreme Court, any justice thereof, the district court and any circuit judge *within their respective jurisdictions.*” 28 U.S.C. § 2241(a)(emphasis added). Title 28 U.S.C. § 2242 provides that a petitioner should name “the person who has custody over him” as the respondent to his *habeas* petition. 28 U.S.C. § 2242. The custodian is “the person with the ability to produce the prisoner’s body before the habeas court.” Rumsfeld v. Padilla, 542 U.S. 426, 434, 124 S.Ct. 2711, 159 L.Ed.2d 513 (2006). Thus, a Section 2241 petition is properly filed in the district where the petitioner was in custody at the time of filing and not the district that imposed sentencing. United States v. Miller, 871 F.2d 488, 490 (4th Cir. 1989)(finding that judicial review must be sought under Section 2241 in the district of confinement concerning “[a] claim for credit against a sentence attack[ing] the computation and execution of the sentence rather than the sentence itself.); also see In re Jones, 226 F.3d 328, 332 (4th Cir. 2000)(“A habeas petition under § 2241

must . . . be filed in the district in which the prisoner is confined.”). At the time of the filing of the above Section 2241 Petition, Petitioner was incarcerated at FCI McKean, which is located in Lewis Run, Pennsylvania. This Court, however, does not have jurisdiction over Petitioner’s current warden, who is located in the Western District of Pennsylvania. Jurisdiction with respect to Petitioner’s claim is therefore in the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Title 28 U.S.C. § 1631 provides a court with authority to transfer a case for lack of jurisdiction. Specifically, Section 1631 provides that “the court shall, if it is in the interest of justice, transfer such action or appeal to any other such court . . . in which the action or appeal could have been brought at the time it was filed or noticed.” 28 U.S.C. § 1631; also see 28 U.S.C. §§ 1404(a) and 1406(a). At the time Petitioner filed his above Petition, the Petition could have been properly filed in the Western District of Pennsylvania. Pursuant to Section 1631, and in the interest of justice, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the above matter be transferred to the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Petitioner is directed to address any further filings concerning this matter to that court. The Clerk is directed to **REMOVE** this matter from the Court’s docket.

The Clerk is further directed to send a copy of this Memorandum Opinion and Order to Petitioner, who is acting *pro se*, and the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

ENTER: October 25, 2024.



David A. Faber
Senior United States District Judge