

TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT

In re Bryant L. Woods

No. 01-26-00210-CR · No. 01-26-00210-CR · Decided March 26, 2026

SUMMARY

The First District Court of Appeals of Texas dismissed Bryant L. Woods’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus for lack of jurisdiction. The court held that Texas courts of appeals lack original habeas corpus jurisdiction in criminal matters and noted that Woods had not alleged filing an application in the trial court.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Texas Court of Appeals for the First District
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Chief Justice Adams; Justice Guerra; Justice Guiney
JURISDICTION	Texas Court of Appeals, First District
DECIDED	March 26, 2026
DOCKET	01-26-00210-CR
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Original proceeding on a pro se petition for writ of habeas corpus seeking discharge from custody.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Jurisdictional review; the court determined whether it possessed original habeas corpus jurisdiction over the criminal matter.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential; opinion marked Do not publish under TEX. R. APP. P. 47.2(b).
PARTIES	Bryant L. Woods, Relator v. State of Texas

TOPICS

- habeas corpus
- appellate jurisdiction
- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal procedure
- habeas corpus
- appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Texas Court of Appeals has original habeas corpus jurisdiction to grant direct relief in a criminal matter.
2. Whether the petition should be dismissed when the relator has not alleged that he first sought habeas relief in the trial court.

HOLDINGS

1. Texas courts of appeals lack original habeas corpus jurisdiction in criminal matters; original jurisdiction to grant a criminal habeas writ is vested in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, district courts, county courts, or a judge of those courts.
2. A court of appeals must dismiss a criminal habeas petition seeking direct relief when the court lacks original habeas corpus jurisdiction.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The courts of appeal have no original habeas-corpus jurisdiction in criminal matters.”

“Accordingly, relator’s petition is dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Woods was incarcerated and proceeded pro se. He claimed that he was illegally restrained and sought discharge from custody through a habeas corpus petition filed directly in the court of appeals. The opinion notes that he did not allege that he had filed a habeas application in the trial court.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Bryant L. Woods filed an application for writ of habeas corpus directly in the Texas Court of Appeals. He did not allege that he had first filed an application in the trial court. The court dismissed the petition for lack of original habeas corpus jurisdiction.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- In re Ayers, 515 S.W.3d 356, 356 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 2016, orig. proceeding)

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