

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN

Gurjinder Singh v. Kevin Raycraft et al.

Singh · No. 25-13673 · Decided December 9, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan ordered the transfer of Gurjinder Singh’s 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas petition to the Western District of Michigan. The court held that venue lies in the district of confinement and that transfer under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a), rather than dismissal, was in the interest of justice because Singh was confined in Lake County, Michigan.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Shalina D. Kumar
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
DECIDED	December 9, 2025
DOCKET	25-13673
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 was filed in the Eastern District of Michigan and transferred to the Western District of Michigan because venue was proper in the district of confinement.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Gurjinder Singh v. Kevin Raycraft et al.

TOPICS

- venue
- federal habeas corpus
- immigration detention
- immigration
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- federal habeas corpus
- immigration detention
- civil procedure
- venue

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a § 2241 habeas petition seeking immediate release from physical confinement must be brought in the federal district where the petitioner is confined.
2. Whether the court should transfer the petition under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a) rather than dismiss it when venue is improper and the proper district is identifiable.

HOLDINGS

1. For a habeas action seeking, at least in part, immediate release from physical confinement, jurisdiction and venue lie only in the federal district of confinement.
2. When venue is improper, 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a) permits transfer to the proper district when transfer is in the interest of justice, and transfer was appropriate here.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“For habeas actions seeking, at least in part, immediate release from physical confinement, “jurisdiction lies only in one district: the district of confinement.”” (at 1)

“Here, the interest of justice requires transfer rather than dismissal.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Singh filed a habeas petition challenging his detention under the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment. He was confined at North Lake Correctional Facility in Lake County, Michigan, which is within the Western District of Michigan. Because the petition sought immediate release from physical confinement, the court treated the district of confinement as the proper venue.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Gurjinder Singh filed a § 2241 habeas petition alleging unlawful immigration detention at North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Michigan. The Eastern District of Michigan determined that Lake County lies within the Western District of Michigan and transferred the petition rather than dismissing it under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The Clerk was directed to transfer Singh's § 2241 petition, ECF No. 1, to the Western District of Michigan.

CASES CITED

- Trump v. J.G.G., 604 U.S. 670, 672 (2025)
- Rumsfeld v. Padilla, 542 U.S. 426, 443 (2004)
- Rumsfeld v. Padilla, 542 U.S. 426, 451 (2004) (Kennedy, J., concurring)

- Aguilar v. Dunbar, 2025 WL 3281540, at *8-*9, ___ F. Supp. 3d ___ (E.D. Mich. Nov. 13, 2025)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION GURJINDER SINGH, Plaintiff, Case No. 25-13673 Honorable Shalina D. Kumar v. Magistrate Judge Anthony P. Patti KEVIN RAYCRAFT et al., Defendants. ORDER TRANSFERRING PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS (ECF NO. 1) Petitioner Gurjinder Singh (“Singh” or “Petitioner”) filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, alleging that he is being unlawfully detained by the Respondents at the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Michigan in violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Due Process clause of the Fifth Amendment.

See generally, ECF No. 1. For habeas actions seeking, at least in part, immediate release from physical confinement, “jurisdiction lies only in one district: the district of confinement.” *Trump v. J.G.G.*, 604 U.S. 670, 672 (2025) (quoting *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, 542 U.S. 426, 443 (2004)). Petitioner Singh is confined Page 1 of 3 at North Lake Correctional Facility in Lake County, Michigan.

Lake County is within the Western District of Michigan. Courts consider the district-of-confinement-rule to be a question of venue. See *id.* (holding that venue is improper outside district of confinement); see also *Padilla*, 542 U.S. at 451 (Kennedy, J. concurring). Section 1406(a) of Title 28 of the United States Code provides two options for a court concluding that venue is improper: it shall dismiss the case for being filed in the wrong district, “or if it be in the interest of justice,” it may transfer the case to the district where venue is proper.

28 U.S.C. § 1406(a). Here, the interest of justice requires transfer rather than dismissal. Dismissal of the action would cause Petitioner to incur the additional expense of filing the same habeas petition in the Western District, and, more importantly, would delay the possibility of his release. See *Aguilar v. Dunbar*, 2025 WL 3281540, at *8, ___ F. Supp. 3d ___ (E.D.

Mich. Nov. 13, 2025). Indeed, dismissal in lieu of transfer may constitute an abuse of discretion, where, as here, the circumstances known to the court demonstrate that a transfer would be in the interest of justice. *Id.* at *9.

Accordingly, the Court will transfer Singh’s petition to the Western District of Michigan. Page 2 of 3 Accordingly, the Clerk of the Court is DIRECTED to TRANSFER Singh’s petition for writ of habeas corpus (ECF No. 1) to the Western District of Michigan. IT IS SO ORDERED. s/ Shalina D. Kumar SHALINA D. KUMAR Dated: December 9, 2025 United States District Judge Page 3 of 3

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