

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
TEXAS, VICTORIA DIVISION

Cesar Yoel Sandoval Calderas v. Kristi Noem, et al.

Sandoval Calderas · No. 6:26-CV-00005 · Decided January 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The court orders the transfer of a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas case from the Southern District of Texas, Victoria Division, to the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, because the petitioner is detained in Karnes County, which lies within the latter district. The court denies pending motions as moot and directs the clerk to close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Victoria Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Victoria Division
DECIDED	January 30, 2026
DOCKET	6:26-CV-00005
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 in the Southern District of Texas, Victoria Division. The court determined that venue was proper in the Western District of Texas because petitioner was detained there and ordered the case transferred rather than dismissed.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

- immigration
- federal habeas corpus
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a § 2241 habeas petition filed by an immigration detainee must be brought in the federal district where the detainee is incarcerated.
2. Whether the case should be transferred to the proper district rather than dismissed.

HOLDINGS

1. A petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 must be filed in the federal district where the prisoner or detainee is incarcerated.
2. When a § 2241 petition is filed in the wrong federal district, transfer to the district of confinement is appropriate rather than dismissal.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“It is well established that a petition for writ of habeas corpus filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 must be filed in the district where the prisoner or detainee is incarcerated.” (1)

“Rather than dismissal, the Court finds this case should be transferred.” (1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner sought habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and alleged that he was detained at the Karnes County Immigration Processing Center in Karnes City, Texas. The facility is located in Karnes County, within the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, although the petition was filed in the Southern District of Texas, Victoria Division.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner, represented by counsel, filed a § 2241 habeas petition in the Southern District of Texas. The court found that petitioner was detained at the Karnes County Immigration Processing Center in Karnes County, which lies within the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. The court transferred the case to that district, denied pending motions as moot, and directed the clerk to close the case.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The Clerk of Court was ordered to transfer the case to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. Pending motions were denied as moot, and the case was ordered closed in the Southern District of Texas.

CASES CITED

- Hooker v. Sivley, 187 F.3d 680, 682 (5th Cir. 1999)
- Pack v. Yusuff, 218 F.3d 448, 451 (5th Cir. 2000)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT January 30, 2026 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
Nathan Ochsner, Clerk VICTORIA DIVISION CESAR YOEL SANDOVAL CALDERAS, § §
Petitioner, § § VS. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 6:26-CV-00005 § KRISTI NOEM, et al., § §
Respondents. § OPINION AND ORDER OF TRANSFER Petitioner filed this habeas case seeking
relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. (D.E. 1).

In the Petition, Petitioner, who is represented by counsel Nera Shefer, asserts he is being held at
the Karnes County Immigration Processing Center in Karnes City, Texas. The Karnes County
Immigration Processing Center is located in Karnes County, Texas which is within the Western
District of Texas, San Antonio Division. 28 U.S.C. § 124 (d)(4).¹ However, Petitioner's counsel
has filed this case in the Southern District of Texas, Victoria Division.

28 U.S.C. § 124 (b)(5). It is well established that a petition for writ of habeas corpus filed pursuant
to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 must be filed in the district where the prisoner or detainee is incarcerated.
Hooker v. Sivley, 187 F.3d 680, 682 (5th Cir. 1999) (citation omitted); see also Pack v. 1A review
of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement locator website confirms Petitioner is located
at the Karnes County Immigration Processing Center.

See <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/details> (last visited Jan. 30, 2026). 1 / 2 Yusuff, 218 F.3d 448,
451 (5th Cir. 2000) (citations omitted). Accordingly, this case is more appropriately transferred to
the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. Rather than dismissal, the Court finds this
case should be transferred.

Therefore, the Clerk of Court is ORDERED to TRANSFER this case to the United States District
Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. All pending Motions are DENIED
as moot and the Clerk of Court is DIRECTED to CLOSE this case. ORDERED on January 30,
2026. C Jason &- Libby Z United States Magistrate Judge 2/2