

THE STATE EX REL. BLACK, APPELLANT, v. FORCHIONE, JUDGE, APPELLEE.

[Cite as *State ex rel. Black v. Forchione*, 144 Ohio St.3d 149, 2015-Ohio-4336.]

Mandamus—Adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law by way of appeal—

Judgment dismissing petition for writ affirmed.

(No. 2014-2053—Submitted July 7, 2015—Decided October 22, 2015.)

APPEAL from the Court of Appeals for Stark County, No. 2014CA00129,
2014-Ohio-4560.

Per Curiam.

{¶ 1} We affirm the court of appeals’ judgment dismissing a petition for a writ of mandamus.

{¶ 2} Relator-appellant, Lawrence Black, was convicted of a sexually oriented offense. *See State v. Black*, 5th Dist. Stark No. 1999CA00185, 2000 WL 873819 (June 26, 2000) (affirming Black’s conviction and sentence). He is therefore a person required to notify the appropriate county sheriff’s office when he changes his residential address, and he was indicted for a failure to do so in violation of R.C. 2950.05(A). Black filed a petition for a writ of mandamus in the court of appeals, asserting that respondent-appellee, Judge Frank G. Forchione, lacks jurisdiction over his criminal case for the failure to notify, apparently believing that only Judge Haas, the judge who presided over his original criminal case, has jurisdiction. Black is apparently seeking a writ of mandamus ordering Judge Forchione to vacate his rulings in the case. The court of appeals granted Judge Forchione’s motion to dismiss, and Black appealed.

{¶ 3} To be entitled to a writ of mandamus, Black must establish a clear legal right to the requested relief, a clear legal duty on the part of Judge Forchione to provide it, and the lack of an adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law.

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

State ex rel. Waters v. Spaeth, 131 Ohio St.3d 55, 2012-Ohio-69, 960 N.E.2d 452, ¶ 6.

{¶ 4} “[A] claim of improper assignment of a judge can generally be adequately raised by way of appeal.” *State ex rel. Key v. Spicer*, 91 Ohio St.3d 469, 746 N.E.2d 1119 (2001), citing *State ex rel. Berger v. McMonagle*, 6 Ohio St.3d 28, 30, 451 N.E.2d 225 (1983) (petitions for mandamus and prohibition cannot be used as substitutes for an appeal to contest allegedly improper assignment of judge). Here, Black’s only claim appears to be the allegedly improper assignment of Judge Forchione to his criminal case instead of Judge Haas. He therefore has an adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law by way of appeal, and he is not entitled to a writ of mandamus.

Judgment affirmed.

O’CONNOR, C.J., and PFEIFER, O’DONNELL, LANZINGER, KENNEDY, FRENCH, and O’NEILL, JJ., concur.

Lawrence Black, pro se.

John D. Ferrero, Stark County Prosecuting Attorney, and Kathleen O. Tatarsky, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, for appellee.
