

FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN DIVISION

FEB 02 2026

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT CLERK
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BY CR DEPUTY

Paul Manuel Reynoso Ochoa
Petitioner

PETITION FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS

v.

1:26 CV 00266 RP

Miguel Vergara, Acting Director of Boston Field
Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
Todd Lyons, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and
Customs Enforcement;
Kristi Noem, Secretary of the U.S. Department of
Homeland Security;
Charlotte Collins, Warden of the T. Don Hutto
Detention Center;
Respondents

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INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner Paul Manuel Reynoso Ochoa (Mr. Reynoso Ochoa) is a twenty-five-old Guatemalan citizen who is eligible for Asylum and or Withholding of Removal.
2. The Alien Number for the Petitioner is 
3. Mr. Reynoso Ochoa entered the United States without inspection and were never encountered by the Border Patrol on April 12th, 2024.
4. On October 15th, 2025, around 8:13 AM, he was arrested, altogether with his sister and brother by ICE.
5. He has no criminal background.

6. He had been at liberty in the United States for over a year prior to his detention
7. In order to vindicate Petitioner's constitutional, statutory and regulatory rights, this Honorable Court should grant this instant petition for a writ of habeas corpus to ensure his continued freedom. Petitioner humbly asks this Honorable Court to find that his detention to be unlawful and to order ICE to release him.
8. Mr. Reynoso Ochoa's sister's *Great Writ* was granted by the Honorable Court on January 30th, 2026, *See Reynoso v. Vergara et al 1:26-cv-00159-ADA-DH*

JURISDICTION

9. This instant action is rooted in the United States Constitution and the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
10. This Honorable court has jurisdiction over this matter under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 (Habeas Corpus), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (Federal Question), and Article I, § 9, cl. 2 of the United States Constitution (Suspension Clause)

VENUE

11. Venue is proper because the petitioner is currently detained at the T. Don Hutto Detention Center, located at 1001 Welch Street, Taylor, TX 76574, therefore, the Petitioner remains detained in the Western District of Texas.

REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH ON 28 U.S.C. § 2243

12. The Honorable Court must grant this instant petition for writ of habeas corpus or issue an order to show-cause to the respondents "forthwith", unless the petitioner is not entitled to

relief, 28 U.S.C § 2243. If an order to show cause is issued, the Honorable Court must require respondents to file a return “within three days unless for good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed”

PARTIES AND FACTS ALLEGED

13. The Petitioner, Mr. Reynoso Ochoa, upon information provided by ICE, is currently detained at the Plymouth County Correctional Facility.
14. Respondent Miguel Vergara is sued in his official capacity as the Acting Director of San Antonio Field Office for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
15. Respondent Todd Lyons is sued in his capacity as the Acting Director for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
16. Respondent Kristi Noem is sued in her capacity as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
Respondent Charlotte Collins is sued in her capacity as the Warden of the T. Don Hutton Detention Center.
17. All respondents are named in their official capacities.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT ONE

Violation of Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process Clause

18. The Fifth Amendment provided that “no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law”

19. “[t]he Due Process clause applies to all persons within the United States, including aliens, whether their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary or permanent” *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 693 (2001)
20. Respondent mandatory detention without consideration for release on bond or access to a bond hearing violates his due process rights.

COUNT TWO

Violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) Unlawful Denial of Release on Bond

21. Mandatory detention as set forth on 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to all noncitizens residing in the United States whom are subject to the ground of inadmissibility, most relevant, it does not apply to those who previously entered the country and have been residing in the U.S. prior to being detained by Defendants, historically, such noncitizens would be detained under § 1226(a), and therefore, eligible for release on bond.
22. Nonetheless, the Department of Justice has issued a decision on September 5th, binding to all IJs, thus rendering the Petitioner ineligible for release on Bond, *Matter of YAJURE HURTADO*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025).

COUNT THREE

Violation of the Bond Regulations, 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1, 1236.1 and 1003.19 Unlawful

Denial of Release on Bond

23. In 1997, following enactment of IIRIRA, EOIR and the Immigration and Naturalization Service issued an interim rule interpreting its detention provisions. Under the heading “Apprehension, Custody, and Detention of [Noncitizens],” the agencies clarified that

“[d]espite being applicants for admission, [noncitizens] who are present without having been admitted or paroled (formerly referred to as [noncitizens] who entered without inspection) *will be eligible for bond and bond redetermination.*” 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (Mar. 6, 1997). Thus, individuals who entered without inspection are eligible for custody redetermination hearings under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 and its implementing regulations.

24. Application of 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner, who is bond-eligible, unlawfully mandates his continued detention in contravention of 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1, 1236.1, and 1003.19.

COUNT FOUR

Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act Contrary to Law and Arbitrary and Capricious Agency Policy

25. The Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”) requires that a “reviewing court shall...hold unlawful and set aside agency action, findings, and conclusions found to be...arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law.” 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A).
26. The mandatory detention provision at 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to all noncitizens physically present in the United States who are subject to grounds of inadmissibility. Critically, it does not apply to those who have already entered the country and resided here prior to being apprehended and placed into removal proceedings. Such individuals fall under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), which provides for release on bond absent applicability of § 1225(b)(1), § 1226(c), or § 1231.
27. Nevertheless, DHS and the Immigration Court have applied § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner.

28. This application is arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and therefore violates the APA. See 5 U.S.C. § 706(2).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

- 1) Wherefore, Petitioner respectfully requests this Court to grant the following:
- 2) Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
- 3) Issue an Order to Show Cause ordering Respondents to show cause why this Petition should not be granted within three days;
- 4) Order that Defendants not remove Petitioner from the State of Texas;
- 5) Declare that Petitioner's detention violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment as well as the relevant statute and regulations governing detention of noncitizens;
- 6) Issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus ordering Respondents to release Petitioner immediately;
- 7) Award Petitioner attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act, and on any other basis justified under law; and
- 8) Grant any further relief this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Manuel Reynoso Ochoa
Petitioner

By and through undersigned counsel.

/s/ Stephen A. Lagana
Stephen A. Lagana, Esq.
Law Offices of Stephen A. Lagana
145 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA 01840
BBO-MA# 565811

Dated: February 2, 2026

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §. 2242

I represent Petitioner, **Paul Manuel Reynoso Ochoa** and submit this verification on his behalf. I hereby verify that the factual statements made in the foregoing Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Stephen A. Lagana
Stephen A. Lagana, Esq.
Law Offices of Stephen A. Lagana
145 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA 01840
BBO-MA# 565811

Dated: February 2, 2026