

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION**

DAWIT ABRAHAM MEKONNEN,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 1:26-cv-00122-AGF
	)	
TODD M. LYONS, et al., ¹	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER – TRACK 4: § 2241 HABEAS CORPUS PETITION

Petitioner Dawit Abraham Mekonnen, a federal immigration detainee, challenges the legality of his detention at the Ste. Genevieve County Detention Center in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Having reviewed the Petition under Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts,² the Court finds that summary dismissal is not warranted. Therefore, pursuant to the Local Rules and the Differentiated Case Management Program of the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Missouri,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following provisions apply in this case and will be modified only upon a showing of good cause:

1. This case has been assigned to Track 4 (Administrative).

¹ Petitioner names numerous Respondents in his Petition, including “SUPERINTENDENT, St. Genevieve County Detention Center.” ECF No. 1 at 1, 5 ¶ 7. The proper name of this respondent is the Warden of the Ste. Genevieve County Jail where Petitioner is in custody—Sheriff Gary Stolzer. See 28 U.S.C. § 2242, ¶ 2. The Court takes judicial notice that the U.S. Attorney’s Office will be representing Sheriff Stolzer. See *Samkharadze v. Mullin*, No. 1:26-cv-101-RWS, ECF No. 1 at 1 n. 1 (E.D. Mo. filed May 26, 2026) (government’s response confirming local warden as proper party respondent and explaining that pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement, the U.S. Attorney has agreed to represent the Sheriff). As such, the Court will order that “Gary Stolzer, Warden of Ste. Genevieve County Jail” be substituted as the proper respondent in this matter, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office will be served on his behalf.

² Pursuant to Rule 1(b) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts, the Rules apply to section 2241 petitions.

2. Respondents must show cause, in writing and within **seven (7) days**³ of service, why the relief requested in the instant Petition should not be granted. Respondents' answer must contain all that is required by Rule 5(b) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts.

3. Petitioner may file a reply or may waive the right to file a reply to Respondent's response. *See* Rule 5(e) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts. Within **three (3) days** of Respondents filing a response, Petitioner must file a notice that indicates: (1) whether Petitioner will file a reply and, if so, how much time he needs to do so; and (2) Petitioner's position on the need for a hearing. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2243, ¶ 4.

4. The Court will schedule a hearing, if necessary, after the parties have filed their submissions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Petitioner is being detained in this District, Respondents are **ENJOINED** from removing, transferring, or otherwise facilitating the removal of Petitioner from the Eastern District of Missouri until the Court issues an order on the pending Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (ECF No. 1).

1. Respondents may request permission from the Court to move Petitioner if unforeseen or emergency circumstances arise which require Petitioner to be removed from this District. Any such request must include an explanation for the request as well as a proposed destination. The Court will then determine whether to grant the request and permit transfer of Petitioner.

³ Pursuant to statute, the Respondents must show cause why the petition for a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted "within three days unless for good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed." 28 U.S.C. § 2243, ¶ 2. Petitioner here requests a response within seven (7) days. ECF No. 1 at 15. The Court finds that good cause warrants an additional four (4) days for response so that Respondents may provide a comprehensive response to the potentially complex issues in this case and for relevant equitable considerations.

2. If Petitioner has already been removed from the Eastern District of Missouri, Respondents are **ORDERED** to immediately return Petitioner to the Eastern District of Missouri.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court shall substitute "Gary Stolzer, Warden of Ste. Genevieve County Jail" for Respondent currently named on the docket sheet as "Superintendent."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court, through the U.S. Marshals Service, shall personally serve a copy of this Order and the Petition, upon the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, Civil Division, 111 South 10th Street, Room 20.333, St. Louis, Missouri 63102.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that the Clerk of Court, through the U.S. Marshals Service, shall serve a copy of this Order and the Petition, by FedEx with signature required, upon the Attorney General of the United States, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001.

Dated this 1st day of June, 2026.



AUDREY G. FLEISSIG
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE