UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

D.A.G.M. Petitioner, v. MARKWAYNE MULLIN, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, *et. al.*, Respondents.	)	Case No. 1:26-cv-09971 Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman

JOINT STATUS REPORT

TO THE HONORABLE COURT:

COME NOW Petitioner, D.A.G.M., by and through his Pro Bono attorneys, and Respondents, and in compliance with this Court's Minute Order of August 20, 2026, Dkt. 11, the parties submit the following joint status report regarding Petitioner's Family Reunification Application ("FRA") and negotiations.

Petitioner's Position:

1. Petitioner does not object to a one-week continuance to allow his brother/sponsor ("sponsor") to complete the FRA. The sponsor received the initial orientation regarding how to complete the FRA on Tuesday, August 25, 2026. Despite efforts to complete the FRA by the Court-Ordered deadline of today, and for reasons beyond the Sponsor's control as detailed below, the FRA has not been completed. Petitioner understands that an additional week will be sufficient to complete the FRA packet.

2. On Friday, August 21, 2026, Petitioner's counsel expressed concern to the government regarding the lack of progress on the FRA because the case manager would not identify Petitioner's brother as an interested sponsor due to ORR's rules requiring US-based identification documents.

3. On Monday, August 24, 2026, Petitioner's counsel emailed the government again. Petitioner's NIJC counsel also emailed Maryville to ensure they were aware of the

federal litigation and this Court's Order and asked if an ORR Federal Field Specialist ("FFS") had been assigned. Later that afternoon, Maryville confirmed that the ORR FFS team had received the sponsor referral on August 21, 2026, but no FFS had been assigned. Assignment of an FFS is vital in the FRA process because the FFS reviews the various sections of the FRA and approves them before the sponsor can complete the next section.

4. On Tuesday, August 25, 2026, the government advised that someone had been assigned to the case and asked Petitioner's counsel to inform the sponsor that someone would be reaching out. Later that same day, the Government advised that DHS Analyst Lucero Granillo contacted the sponsor via telephone. During that call: (a) Ms. Granillo completed an orientation with the sponsor; (b) the sponsor confirmed interest in sponsoring Petitioner; (c) the sponsor provided a Guatemalan Consular ID; and (d) an application was created and documents were uploaded. The sponsor was instructed to sign into the FRA portal and complete the Authorization for Release of Information ("ARI").

5. Petitioner's counsel responded, expressing concern that the initial contact consisted only of a routine orientation and it did not appear as though the process was being expedited to comply with the Court-ordered deadline of Thursday, August 27, 2026.

6. On August 25, 2026, the sponsor completed Part 1: Sponsor Packet Information, which was then placed "under Case Manager review." However, the system prevented the sponsor from proceeding to Part 2 (ARI) until a case manager reviewed and approved Part 1. The sponsor called the ORR National Call Center (1-800-203-7001) and spoke with a Representative Esmeralda, who requested additional information (which the sponsor provided) and indicated someone would contact him.

7. On August 26, 2026, FFS Ryan Nathan contacted the sponsor and stated that he had been assigned to the case. During the call, the FFS informed the sponsor that he will need an appropriate U.S. identification and an ITIN number, which the sponsor currently lacks. The sponsor informed the FFS that three individuals live with him, and the FFS stated that those three individuals must also have appropriate U.S. identification and ITINs for the vetting process.

8. Nonetheless, Mr. Nathan approved Part 1, allowing the sponsor to continue with next sections of the application, where the sponsor entered information in multiple fields and uploaded documents, including his valid Guatemala identification, valid Guatemala passport, and proof of residence. However, the sponsor was unable to complete the application without approval of the information entered.

9. On that same date, Mr. Nathan sent the sponsor an email with form OMB 0970-

0278, Authorization to Release Information, SAP-2 (SPA) and asked the sponsor to have his roommates complete it. The sponsor's roommates completed the forms, and the sponsor emailed the forms to Mr. Nathan in the evening of August 26, 2026.

10. Petitioner's counsel does not have access to the ORR online platform and cannot view what specific documentation must be submitted or what steps remain in the process. Maryville confirmed that it also lacks full visibility into the DCA-FFS vetting process.

11. Petitioner agrees that an additional week would provide sponsor the time to work with Mr. Nathan to submit all available documents and complete the FRA.

12. It is Petitioner's understanding that once the FRA is completed, ORR will conduct several additional processes (fingerprints, background check, DNA testing and home study) prior to making a sponsorship decision. Counsel met and conferred with the Government regarding the same, but the Government would not discuss anything beyond the FRA or commit to expediting these processes.

Respondents' Position:

13. Respondents request an additional week to ensure that the sponsor's application can be fully submitted, as progress has been made on that application, but only very recently.

14. Respondents assert that as of August 20, 2026, D.A.G.M. participates in weekly individual and clinical services, attends school, and communicates with his mother in his home country and purported brother several times a week. No medical concerns have been reported. On August 21, 2026, Health and Human Services notified the ORR that D.A.G.M.'s purported brother's desired to re-open his application for sponsorship, the Case Manager submitted referral and notified the sponsor. The case was assigned to Division of Placement Operations (DPO) Intakes Analyst Lucero Granillo that same evening. On August 24, 2026, the Intakes Analyst attempted to contact the potential sponsor by phone. On August 25, 2026, the Intakes Analyst texted the potential sponsor at 11:50 a.m. and did not receive an answer. At 12:10 p.m. that same day, the Intakes Analyst was able to reach the potential sponsor by phone, provide him with an orientation, and confirm the potential sponsor's interest in sponsoring D.A.G.M. The potential sponsor provided his Guatemalan Consular ID. The Analyst informed him of the ID and Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (SSN/ITIN) requirements, created an application, and uploaded documents. The case was sent to Division of Sponsor Administration (DSA) for further evaluation and a DSA Federal Field Specialist (FFS) was assigned.

15. Respondents also assert that on August 26, 2026, the assigned FFS Ryan Nathan

spoke to the potential sponsor and inquired about his application. The potential sponsor stated that he couldn't proceed past part one, so the FFS reviewed part one and completed that section. The FFS informed the potential sponsor that he will need an appropriate ID and an ITIN number, which he currently lacks. The potential sponsor stated that three other individuals also live with him, and the FFS informed the potential sponsor that those persons will also need to be vetted and require an appropriate ID and ITIN number. When respondents' counsel last spoke with HHS, HHS indicated that the sponsorship application is open, and the potential sponsor can complete parts 2 and 3. Respondents are aware of the court's timeline and contend that the current progress shows that respondents are expediting the application.

16. Respondents assert that an additional week would provide the potential sponsor the time to work with the FFS in submitting all available documents and ensuring a complete application.

17. If the court wishes to set a briefing schedule, respondents would ask for a date of September 4, 2026 to respond to the petition.

Respectfully submitted,

On August 27, 2026

Counsel for Petitioner

s/ Charles Roth
Charles Roth
National Immigrant Justice Center
111 West Jackson Blvd, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 660-1613 (tel)
(312) 660-1613 (fax)



DLA Piper (Puerto Rico) LLC
B7 Tabonuco St.
Suite 1501
Guaynabo, PR 00968-3028
Tel. 787-945-9132
Fax 939-697-6102

s/ Melissa Marchany
Melissa Marchany
Pro Hac Vice admission granted [docket no.10]
Puerto Rico Bar no. 19,685
USDC-PR 301314
melissa.marchany@us.dlapiper.com

s/ Katiuska Bolaños-Lugo
Katiuska Bolaños-Lugo
Pro Hac Vice submitted [docket no. 11] and pending
Puerto Rico Bar 18,888
DC Bar 90045913
USDC-PR 232812
katiuska.bolanos-lugo@us.dlapiper.com

Counsel for Respondents

ANDREW S. BOUTROS
United States Attorney

By: s/ Geoffrey Gilpin
GEOFFREY GILPIN
Special Assistant United States Attorney
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 371-0994
geoffrey.gilpin@usdoj.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, an attorney of record for Respondent, hereby certify that on this 27th day of August 2026, I caused the foregoing JOINT STATUS REPORT to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system.

s/____

Counsel for [____]