

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
KENTUCKY, NORTHERN DIVISION AT COVINGTON

Erick Adony Perez-Valderamos v. Todd Lyons, et al.

Civil Action No. 26-182-DLB (E.D. Ky. June 5, 2026) · No. Civil Action No. 26-182-DLB · Decided June 5,
2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky granted Erick Adony Perez-Valderamos’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus challenging his immigration detention. Relying on Sixth Circuit precedent, the court held that 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), rather than § 1225, governed his detention and that his prior bond hearing was constitutionally inadequate. The court ordered his immediate release or, alternatively, a constitutionally adequate bond hearing at which the government must establish dangerousness or flight risk by clear and convincing evidence.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Northern Division at Covington
WRITING FOR THE COURT	David L. Bunning
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Northern Division at Covington
DECIDED	June 5, 2026
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 26-182-DLB
DISPOSITION	writ_granted
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petition for a writ of habeas corpus challenging immigration detention under the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the legality and constitutional adequacy of the procedures underlying petitioner's detention and bond hearing. It did not review the immigration judge's discretionary custody determination under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(e).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court memorandum opinion and order
PARTIES	Erick Adony Perez-Valderamos v. Todd Lyons, et al.

TOPICS

immigration detention

procedural due process

due process

statutory interpretation

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration

constitutional law

habeas corpus

civil procedure

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), rather than 8 U.S.C. § 1225, governed the detention of a noncitizen who had entered the United States years earlier and was not seeking admission.
2. Whether the petitioner's detention violated the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause because he had not received an individualized detention hearing under the proper statutory framework.
3. Whether the proper remedy was immediate release or a constitutionally adequate bond hearing at which the government bears the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence.

HOLDINGS

1. Section 1226(a) governs the detention of a noncitizen who entered the United States years earlier, was released into the country, and is not seeking admission, rather than the mandatory-detention provisions of § 1225.
2. Detaining petitioner without an individualized detention hearing under the applicable § 1226(a) framework violated the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause.
3. A bond hearing conducted under § 1225 did not satisfy due process when § 1226(a) governed petitioner's detention, and the court could review the adequacy of the hearing procedures even though § 1226(e) barred review of discretionary custody decisions.
4. The proper remedy was immediate release or, alternatively, a constitutionally adequate bond hearing under § 1226(a) at which the government must prove by clear and convincing evidence that continued detention is justified.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To hold otherwise would subject long-term law-abiding residents in the United States. . . to the hardship of mandatory detention without due process.” (III.A)

“Freedom from bodily restraint has always been at the core of the liberty protected by the Due Process Clause.” (III.B)

“Respondents are ORDERED to immediately release Petitioner, or in the alternative, provide him with a constitutionally adequate bond hearing where the government bears the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven (7) days of the date of this Order” (IV)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Perez-Valderamos, a Honduran citizen, entered the United States in approximately April 2015, presented himself to immigration authorities, and was released without inspection. He lived continuously in the United States,

established residency in New Hampshire, had two young children, and had no criminal history. ICE detained him on January 20, 2026, and an immigration judge denied bond at a March 30, 2026 hearing under the view that detention was governed by 8 U.S.C. § 1225. The petitioner remained detained at the Boone County Jail and had not received an individualized merits-based detention hearing under § 1226(a).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Perez-Valderamos filed a pro se habeas petition after an immigration judge denied bond on the ground that the judge lacked authority to redetermine custody under 8 U.S.C. § 1225. The federal respondents filed a response, and the petitioner did not timely reply. The district court granted the petition and ordered immediate release or, alternatively, a constitutionally adequate bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

DISPOSITION

writ_granted

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Respondents were ordered to immediately release petitioner or, alternatively, provide within seven days a constitutionally adequate bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), with the government bearing the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence. Respondents were also ordered to file a status report by June 19, 2026 certifying compliance and reporting the hearing's outcome and reasons for any denial of bond.

CASES CITED

- Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft, 2026 WL 1283891 (6th Cir. May 11, 2026)
- A.A.R.P. v. Trump, 605 U.S. 91, 94 (2025)
- Trump v. J.G.G., 604 U.S. 670, 673 (2025)
- Mathews v. Eldridge, 424 U.S. 319, 321 (1976)
- Hamdi v. Rumsfeld, 542 U.S. 507, 531 (2004)
- Foucha v. Louisiana, 504 U.S. 71, 80 (1992)
- Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001)
- Yamataya v. Fisher, 189 U.S. 86, 101 (1903)
- Goldberg v. Kelly, 397 U.S. 254, 268 (1970)
- Edahi v. Lewis, No. 4:25-cv-129-RGJ, 2025 WL 3466682, at *14 (W.D. Ky. Nov. 27, 2025)
- Yao v. Almodovar, No. 25 Civ. 9983 (PAE), 2025 WL 3653433, at *11 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 17, 2025)
- Barrera v. Tindall, No. 3:25-cv-541-RGJ, 2025 WL 2690565, at *7 (W.D. Ky. Sept. 19, 2025)
- Günaydin v. Trump, No. 25-cv-01151, 2025 WL 1459154, at *10 (D. Minn. May 21, 2025)
- Hernandez-Lara v. Lyons, 10 F.4th 19, 39 (1st Cir. 2021)
- Velasco Lopez v. Decker, 978 F.3d 842, 846 (2d Cir. 2020)
- Azalyar v. Raycraft, No. 1:25-cv-916, 2026 WL 30741, at *5 (S.D. Ohio Jan. 2, 2026)
- Rajesh v. Barr, 420 F. Supp. 3d 78, 87-88 (W.D.N.Y. 2019)

- Addington v. Texas, 441 U.S. 418, 427 (1979)

OPINION

Lyons

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY
NORTHERN DIVISION
AT COVINGTON

CIVIL ACTION NO. 26-182-DLB

ERICK ADONY PEREZ VALDERAMOS PETITIONER

v. MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

TODD LYONS, et al. RESPONDENTS * * * * *

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter is before the Court on Petitioner Erick Adony Perez-Valderamos's pro se Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Doc. # 1). Federal Respondents having filed their Response (Doc. # 5) and Perez-Valderamos failed to file a timely Reply. Accordingly, the Petition is ripe for the Court's review. For the following reasons, the Court will grant the Petition.

II. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner Erick Adony Perez-Valderamos is native and citizen of Honduras who entered the United States on or around April 2015. (Doc. # 1 at 9). He presented himself to immigration authorities at the time of his crossing and was released without inspection. (Id. at 12). Since his entry, he has lived continuously in the United States and has established residency in New Hampshire. (Id.). He has two young children and no criminal history. (Id.). He was detained by ICE officials on January 20, 2026. (Id.). Perez-Valderamos received a bond hearing before an immigration judge ("IJ") on March 30, 2026. (Doc. # 1-1 at 5-6). In that hearing, the IJ denied his bond, stating that the IJ lacked authority to redetermine bond or custody conditions under Section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("INA"). (Id.). He has remained in ICE custody at the Boone County Jail in Burlington, Kentucky since his arrest. (Doc. # 5 at 2). On April 27, 2026, Perez-Valderamos, proceeding pro se, filed the instant Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Doc. # 1). In his Petition, he claims he is being unlawfully detained and requests that this Court order his immediate release or, alternatively, a constitutionally adequate bond hearing. (Id. at 13). One day later, the Court ordered Respondents to file a Response to the Petition. (Doc. # 3). Respondents having filed their Response (Doc. # 5) and Perez-Valderamos having failed to file a timely Reply, the Petition is now ripe for the Court's review.

III. ANALYSIS

Petitioner argues that his present detention violates the INA and his right to due process under the Fifth Amendment. (Doc. # 1 at 13). As a result, he requests that the Court order his immediate

release or, alternatively, an individualized bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). (Id. at 17). A. Relevant Framework On May 11, 2026, the Sixth Circuit issued its decision in *Lopez-Campos et al. v. Raycraft et al.*, wherein it determined that § 1226 is the properly applied statutory provision for detaining noncitizens like Petitioner who are not “seeking admission” into the United States. -- F.4th ---, 2026 WL 1283891, at *11 (6th Cir. May 11, 2026). In its opinion, the Sixth Circuit affirmed the judgments of four district courts below, determining that the “text, canons, and past practice” of two statutes all support the conclusion that the petitioners were not subject to the mandatory detention provisions of § 1225. Id. at

*6. Accordingly, the Circuit rejected the government’s position that § 1225 governs noncitizen detainees, concluding that “[t]o hold otherwise would subject long-term law-abiding residents in the United States. . . to the hardship of mandatory detention without due process.” Id. at *13. The same reasoning applies here. Petitioner has been in the United States for roughly eleven years. (Doc. # 1 at 12). After being detained at the border he was released into the country years prior to his present detention. (Id.). Accordingly, pursuant to the Sixth Circuit’s recent opinion in *Lopez-Campos*, the Court concludes that § 1226 governs Petitioner’s detention. B. Due Process Because the Court has concluded that § 1226(a) is the appropriate statutory framework to apply to Perez-Valderamos, the Court must now determine whether his present detention violates his due process rights. The Sixth Circuit has concluded that petitioners like Perez-Valderamos have “passed through our gates” which affords them protection by the Fifth Amendment’s Due Process Clause. See *Lopez-Campos*, 2026 WL 1283891, at *11. The Court recognizes that Perez-Valderamos was given a bond hearing in March 2026. (See Doc. # 1-1 at 2). However, that bond hearing took place under the auspices of 8 U.S.C. § 1225, which the Sixth Circuit recently determined does not apply to noncitizens like Perez-Valderamos. Further, while this Court is barred by § 1226(e) from reviewing discretionary decisions of IJs, the Court may review the procedures of the bond hearings to evaluate whether they were constitutionally adequate. Perez-Valderamos’s prior bond hearing took place under an entirely different and unapplicable analytical framework. (See Doc. # 1-1 at 5–6). As such, the Court finds it necessary to evaluate whether due process requires Perez-Valderamos receive a second bond hearing. The Fifth Amendment provides, in pertinent part, that no person shall be “deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law[.]” U.S. Const. amend. V. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Due Process Clause extends to all persons, regardless of citizenship status. See *A.A.R.P. v. Trump*, 605 U.S. 91, 94 (2025) (“[T]he Fifth Amendment entitles aliens to due process of law in the context of removal proceedings.” (quoting *Trump v. J.G.G.*, 604 U.S. 670, 673 (2025))). To determine whether a detainee’s due process rights have been violated, courts apply a three-part balancing test to weigh

(1) the private interest that will be affected by the official action; (2) the risk of an erroneous deprivation of such interest through the procedures used, and the probable value, if any, of additional or substitute procedural safeguards; and (3) the United States’ interest, including

the function involved and the fiscal and administrative burdens that the additional or substitute procedural requirement would entail. *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 321 (1976). It is undisputed that Perez-Valderamos has a cognizable liberty interest in avoiding detention. See *Lopez-Campos*, 2026 WL 1283891, at *13 (a person’s liberty interest in being free from detention “is the most fundamental interest protected by the Due Process Clause and is shared by citizens and noncitizens alike.”); *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 542 U.S. 507, 531 (6th Cir. 2004) (affirming “the fundamental nature of a citizen’s right to be free from involuntary confinement by his own government without due process of law[.]”). Indeed, “[f]reedom from bodily restraint has always been at the core of the liberty protected by the Due Process Clause[.]” *Foucha v. Louisiana*, 504 U.S. 71, 80 (1992); see also *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001) (“Freedom from imprisonment— from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the very liberty that [the Due Process Clause] protects.”). Our immigration law has long recognized that noncitizens have an interest in an individualized hearing prior to detention in connection with immigration proceedings. See *Yamataya v. Fisher*, 189 U.S. 86, 101 (1903). Further, the Supreme Court has previously required individualized hearings for deprivations of interests less fundamental than Perez-Valderamos’s interest in freedom from detention. See *Goldberg v. Kelly*, 397 U.S. 254, 268 (1970) (requiring an individualized hearing prior to the termination of welfare benefits). Second, the risk of erroneous deprivation of that interest is high if Perez- Valderamos is not afforded a detention hearing. See *Edahi v. Lewis*, No. 4:25-cv-129- RGJ, 2025 WL 3466682, at *14 (W.D. Ky. Nov. 27, 2025) (holding that detention “without any individualized assessment, leads to a high risk of erroneous deprivation of an individual’s liberty interest”) (citation omitted); *Yao v. Almodovar*, No. 25 Civ. 9983 (PAE), 2025 WL 3653433, at *11 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 17, 2025) (finding that ICE’s “discretion-free detention of [the petitioner] abridged his rights under [8 U.S.C.] § 1226 and violated due process”) (citations omitted). To date, Petitioner has not had a detention hearing at which his eligibility for bond is determined on the merits of his individual circumstances. Thus, Petitioner’s present detention creates a high risk of an erroneous deprivation of his liberty interest. Accordingly, the second *Mathews* factor favors Petitioner. As to the third factor, the Federal Respondents have not put forth any argument whatsoever advocating for the United States’ interest. The Court, on its own, concludes that the United States likely has a strong interest in immigration proceedings, but certainly, the “existing statutory and regulatory safeguards” which this Court discussed at length about above, “serve the governmental interest in public safety.” *Barrera v. Tindall*, No. 3:25-cv-541-RGJ, 2025 WL 2690565, at *7 (W.D. Ky. Sept. 19, 2025) (quoting *Günaydin v. Trump*, No. 25-cv-01151, 2025 WL 1459154, at *10 (D. Minn. May 21, 2025)). Accordingly, all three factors weigh in favor of Perez-Valderamos. Perez-Valderamos claims that immediate release is the most appropriate remedy in this case. (Doc. # 1 at 4). This Court agrees with Petitioner that his Fifth Amendment due process rights were violated when he was detained without access to an individualized hearing. However, the Court disagrees that immediate release is the proper remedy.

Rather, this Court agrees with other district courts in the country which have concluded that the proper remedy to this violation is a constitutionally adequate bond hearing in which the government bears the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence. See *Hernandez-Lara v. Lyons*, 10 F.4th 19, 39 (1st Cir. 2021) (“[T]he government must bear the burden of proving dangerousness or flight risk in order to continue detaining a noncitizen under section 1226(a)"); *Velasco Lopez v. Decker*, 978 F.3d 842, 846 (2nd Cir. 2020) (finding that the “district court correctly ordered a new bond hearing where the Government bore the burden of proof”); *Azalyar v. Raycraft*, No. 1:25-cv-916, 2026 WL 30741, at *5 (S.D. Ohio Jan. 2, 2026) (“Respondents must provide a custody redetermination hearing at which the government bears the burden of justifying [the petitioner’s] continued detention”); *Rajesh v. Barr*, 420 F. Supp. 3d 78, 87-88 (W.D.N.Y. Oct. 29, 2019) (“The Court agrees with the district court cases holding that allocating the burden to a noncriminal alien to prove he should be released on bond under § 1226(a) violates due process because it asks ‘[t]he individual . . . to share equally with society the risk of error when the possible injury to the individual is significantly greater than any possible harm to the [Government]’ (quoting *Addington v. Texas*, 441 U.S. 418, 427 (1979)))”.

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, for the reasons stated herein, IT IS SO ORDERED as follows:

- (1) | Perez-Valderamos’s Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Doc. # 1) is GRANTED;
- (2) | Respondents are ORDERED to immediately release Petitioner, or in the alternative, provide him with a constitutionally adequate bond hearing where the government bears the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven (7) days of the date of this Order; and
- (3) | Respondents shall file a Status Report with this Court on or before June 19, 2026 to certify compliance with this Order. The Status Report shall include when the bond hearing occurred, if bond was granted or denied, and if denied, the reasons for that denial. This 5th day of June, 2026. he ~ Be Signed By: ; *, as i > David L. Bunning DP 3 = —_Chief United States District Judge G:\Judge-DLB\DATA\ORDERS\Cov2026\26-182 MOO re Habeas Petition.docx