

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
GEORGIA, WAYCROSS DIVISION

Jevaughn Jadane Rattray v. Warden, Folkston ICE Processing
Center

Rattray · No. 5:26-cv-175 · Decided February 10, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia directed service of Jevaughn Jadane Rattray’s 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas petition on the Attorney General, the respondent warden, and the United States Attorney’s Office. The order requires the respondent to answer within seven business days, permits additional motions, establishes reply deadlines, and provides procedures for any motion seeking interim relief from immigration detention.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, Waycross Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, Waycross Division
DECIDED	February 10, 2026
DOCKET	5:26-cv-175
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court reviewed a pro se 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas petition at the initial screening stage and ordered service on the federal respondents.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, applied through Rule 1(b), the court screens the petition to determine whether it plainly appears that the petitioner is not entitled to relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Jevaughn Jadane Rattray v. Warden, Folkston ICE Processing Center

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- removal proceedings
- service of process
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the § 2241 petition should be dismissed at initial screening or served on the respondents.
2. What response, record-production, and briefing deadlines should govern the habeas proceeding.
3. What showing is required for interim release from detention while the habeas petition is pending.

HOLDINGS

1. Because it did not plainly appear that Petitioner was not entitled to relief, the court ordered the Petition served on the Attorney General, the named Warden-Respondent, and the civil process clerk for the United States Attorney's Office.
2. The Warden-Respondent must file an answer within seven business days, certify the true cause of detention, address the petition's allegations, show cause why relief should not be granted, and provide relevant available detention records, with prompt supplementation of later-obtained records.
3. A petitioner seeking release from detention during the pendency of the habeas petition must demonstrate a likelihood of success on the merits of a substantial constitutional claim and extraordinary and exceptional circumstances making release necessary to preserve the effectiveness of the requested habeas relief.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“I find that it does not plainly appear that Petitioner is not entitled to relief.” (Order, Service of the Petition)

“Importantly, a petitioner who seeks release from detention while the Petition is pending must demonstrate in the motion for interim relief: (1) a likelihood of success on the merits of a substantial constitutional claim; and (2) extraordinary and exceptional circumstances exist that make release necessary to preserve the effectiveness of the habeas corpus relief sought.” (Order, Requests for Interim Relief)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion provides no substantive factual findings concerning the alleged basis for Petitioner's detention or the merits of his habeas claims. The court reviewed a § 2241 petition seeking habeas corpus relief while Petitioner was held at the Folkston ICE Processing Center.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner filed a petition for habeas corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The court found that it did not plainly appear that Petitioner was not entitled to relief, ordered service of the Petition and Order, required the Warden to answer within seven business days, and established deadlines for a reply and any motion to dismiss. The court also set procedures for any request for interim relief.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Wilcox v. Ford, 813 F.2d 1140 (11th Cir. 1987)
- Gomez v. United States, 899 F.2d 1124 (11th Cir. 1990)
- Wilson v. Sec'y, Dep't of Corr., No. 17-10060-D, 2017 WL 11815408, at *1 (11th Cir. May 10, 2017)
- Mapp v. Reno, 241 F.3d 221, 225 (2d Cir. 2001)

OPINION

Rattray

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

WAYCROSS DIVISION

JEVAUGHN JADANE RATTRAY,

Petitioner, CIVIL ACTION NO.: 5:26-cv-175 v.

WARDEN, FOLKSTON ICE PROCESSING
CENTER,

Respondent.

O R D E R

Service of the Petition. I have reviewed Petitioner's 28 U.S.C. § 2241 Petition for Habeas Corpus Relief. I find that it does not plainly appear that Petitioner is not entitled to relief. See Rules 1(b) and 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. Therefore, the Court directs the United States Marshal to serve a copy of the Petition, doc. 1, and a copy of this Order by registered or certified mail upon: (1) the Attorney General of the United States; (2) the named Warden-Respondent; and (3) the civil process clerk at the office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(i). The Court DIRECTS the Clerk of Court to provide a courtesy copy of this Order and the Petition to the United States Attorney's Office at: Bradford.Patrick@usdoj.gov; Woelke.Leithart@usdoj.gov; and Keveya.Sturkey@usdoj.gov. Answer Due in 7 Days. The Warden-Respondent must file an answer to the Petition within 7 business days of the date of this Order. See, e.g., 28 U.S.C. § 2243. The Answer must address the allegations in the Petition, certify the true cause of the detention, and show cause why the Petition should not be granted. The Answer shall constitute a return for the purposes of 28 U.S.C. § 2243, as long as it certifies the true cause of detention. Counsel for the Warden- Respondent shall provide all relevant records, including orders, recordings, transcripts, and other records from ICE, that are available to counsel at the time of the Answer. Counsel shall promptly supplement the answer with any additional records that counsel obtains after filing the Answer. The Warden-

Respondent will be permitted to file additional motions, including a motion to dismiss, within 21 days of filing the Answer. Reply Due in 3 Days. Petitioner shall file any desired Reply to the Answer within 3 days of the date the Answer is served. Petitioner shall file any desired response to a motion to dismiss within 14 days of service. Requests for Interim Relief. This Petition will be resolved in the ordinary course. Recently, petitioners in similar circumstances have sought various forms of interim relief, including a prohibition on the petitioner's removal from the United States, a prohibition on ICE from transferring the petitioner from one detention facility to another within the United States, and interim release from detention while the habeas petition is pending. To the extent Petitioner is requesting interim relief, Petitioner shall file an independent motion titled "Motion for Interim Relief" separate from the Petition. Petitioner should not make a request for interim relief in the body of the Petition or in a request for preliminary injunctive relief (e.g., a motion for temporary restraining order or a motion for preliminary injunction, or motion for order to show cause). The Warden-Respondent shall file a response to any motion for interim relief within 7 days of the date the motion is served. If there is a motion currently pending, the Warden-Respondent shall file a response to that Motion within 7 days of the date of this Order. Importantly, a petitioner who seeks release from detention while the Petition is pending must demonstrate in the motion for interim relief: (1) a likelihood of success on the merits of a substantial constitutional claim; and (2) extraordinary and exceptional circumstances exist that make release necessary to preserve the effectiveness of the habeas corpus relief sought. See, e.g., *Wilcox v. Ford*, 813 F.2d 1140 (11th Cir. 1987); *Gomez v. United States*, 899 F.2d 1124 (11th Cir. 1990); and *Wilson v. Sec'y, Dep't of Corr.*, No. 17-10060-D, 2017 WL 11815408, at *1 (11th Cir. May 10, 2017); see also *Mapp v. Reno*, 241 F.3d 221, 225 (2d Cir. 2001). SO ORDERED, this 10th day of February, 2026. BO

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA