

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Aida Amanda A. A. v. Christopher Chestnut, et al.

Aida Amanda A. A. · No. 1:25-cv-01994-TLN-SCR · Decided December 23, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants Petitioner Aida Amanda A. A.’s motion for a temporary restraining order concerning her immigration detention. The court concludes that Petitioner demonstrated likely success on a due process claim, irreparable harm, and favorable equitable and public-interest factors. The order directs her immediate release, restricts re-arrest or re-detention absent specified constitutional protections, and requires Respondents to show cause why the TRO should not be converted into a preliminary injunction.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Troy L. Nunley
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	December 23, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-cv-01994-TLN-SCR
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner sought a temporary restraining order in connection with a habeas corpus petition challenging her civil immigration detention.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	To obtain a temporary restraining order, the movant must show likelihood of success on the merits, likely irreparable harm absent relief, that the balance of equities favors relief, and that an injunction is in the public interest. The court may apply the Ninth Circuit’s sliding-scale approach, but a showing of serious questions on the merits requires that the balance of hardships tip sharply in the movant’s favor.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Aida Amanda A. A. v. Christopher Chestnut, et al.

TOPICS

immigration detention

procedural due process

due process

injunctions

removal proceedings

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration

constitutional law

civil procedure

remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Petitioner was likely to succeed on a procedural due process claim based on her detention without a bond or custody redetermination hearing.
2. Whether Petitioner satisfied the four requirements for a temporary restraining order.
3. What procedural protections were required before the Government could re-arrest or re-detain Petitioner.

HOLDINGS

1. Petitioner raised serious questions, and the court found a clear interest, as to whether her continued freedom was a protected liberty interest under the Due Process Clause after she had been released into the community for two and a half years and had complied with required appointments and check-ins.
2. Petitioner was likely denied procedural due process because she had been detained for nearly two months without a bond or custody redetermination hearing, despite having no criminal history and having complied with required check-ins.
3. Petitioner satisfied the TRO requirements by showing likely success on her due process claim, irreparable harm from continued detention and separation from her family, favorable equities, and that relief served the public interest.
4. Respondents were enjoined from re-arresting or re-detaining Petitioner absent seven days' notice and a pre-deprivation or custody hearing before a neutral decisionmaker, at which the Government must prove by clear and convincing evidence that she presents a danger to the community or a flight risk and must allow counsel to be present.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Due Process Clause applies to all “persons” within the borders of the United States, regardless of immigration status.” (Analysis III.A)

“Respondents are ENJOINED AND RESTRAINED from re-arresting or re-detaining Petitioner absent compliance with constitutional protections, including seven-day notice and a pre-deprivation/custody hearing before a neutral decisionmaker” (Conclusion, paragraph 4)

“the Government shall bear the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that Petitioner poses a danger to the community or a flight risk, and Petitioner shall be allowed to have her counsel present.”
(Conclusion, paragraph 4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner, a native and citizen of Peru, entered the United States with inspection on May 27, 2023, seeking asylum. Federal agents initially detained and then released her on her own recognizance after determining that she was not a flight risk or danger to the community. She alleges that she attended all required ICE and USCIS appointments and check-ins, had no criminal record, and had no deportation order when ICE detained her during a routine visit on October 20, 2025. At the time of the order, she had been detained for nearly two months without a bond or custody redetermination hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner entered the United States after inspection, was released on her own recognizance, and remained in the community while pursuing asylum and attending required immigration appointments. ICE detained her during a routine visit on October 20, 2025. She filed a habeas petition and moved for a temporary restraining order on December 23, 2025. The court granted the TRO without notice, ordered her immediate release, enjoined re-arrest or re-detention absent specified constitutional protections, and issued an order to show cause concerning conversion of the TRO into a preliminary injunction.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008)
- Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell, 632 F.3d 1127, 1134-35 (9th Cir. 2011)
- Hernandez v. Sessions, 872 F.3d 976, 990, 995 (9th Cir. 2017)
- Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678, 693-94 (2001)
- Kentucky Department of Corrections v. Thompson, 490 U.S. 454, 460 (1989)
- Rico-Tapia v. Smith, No. CV 25-00379 SASP-KJM, 2025 WL 2950089, at *8 (D. Haw. Oct. 10, 2025)
- Doe v. Becerra, 787 F. Supp. 3d 1083, 1093 (E.D. Cal. 2025)
- Mathews v. Eldridge, 424 U.S. 319, 335 (1976)
- R.D.T.M. v. Wofford, No. 1:25-CV-01141-KES-SKO (HC), 2025 WL 2617255, at *3-*4 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 9, 2025)
- Manzanarez v. Bondi, No. 1:25-CV-01536-DC-CKD (HC), 2025 WL 3247258, at *4 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025)
- Garcia v. Andrews, No. 2:25-CV-01884-TLN-SCR, 2025 WL 1927596, at *5 (E.D. Cal. July 14, 2025)
- Melendres v. Arpaio, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2012)
- Nat'l Urban League v. Ross, 484 F. Supp. 3d 802, 807 (N.D. Cal. 2020)
- Drakes Bay Oyster Co. v. Jewell, 747 F.3d 1073, 1092 (9th Cir. 2014)
- Zepeda v. U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 753 F.2d 719, 727 (9th Cir. 1985)
- Diaz v. Kaiser, No. 3:25-CV-05071, 2025 WL 1676854, at *3 (N.D. Cal. June 14, 2025)
- Diaz v. Brewer, 656 F.3d 1008, 1015 (9th Cir. 2011)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 AIDA AMANDA A. A., 12 Petitioner, No. 1:25-cv-01994-TLN-SCR 13 14
v. ORDER CHRISTOPHER CHESTNUT, et al., 15 Respondents. 16 17 18 This matter is before
the Court on Petitioner Aida Amanda A. A.'s 1 ("Petitioner") 19 Motion for a Temporary
Restraining Order ("TRO"). (ECF No. 3.)

For the reasons set forth 20 below, Petitioner's Motion is GRANTED. 21 /// 22 /// 23 /// 24 1 As
recommended by the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management of 25 the
Judicial Conference of the United States, the Court omits Petitioner's full name, using only 26 his
first name and last initials, to protect sensitive personal information. See Memorandum Re:
Privacy Concern Regarding Social Security and Immigration Opinions, Committee on Court 27
Administration and Case Management, Judicial Conference of the United States (May 1, 2018),
https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/18-cv-l-suggestion_cacm_0.pdf.

The Clerk of Court 28 is directed to update the docket to reflect this change accordingly. 1 I.
FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND 2 Petitioner is a native and citizen of Peru
who entered with inspection on May 27, 2023 3 seeking asylum. (ECF No. 3 at 3.) When
Petitioner arrived in the United States, federal agents 4 briefly detained her, determined she was
not a flight risk or danger to the community, and 5 released on her own recognizance with a notice
to appear for removal proceedings in immigration 6 court.

(Id.) Since then, Petitioner alleges she has done everything the Government has asked her 7 to do:
she has diligently attended every Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") and 8 United
States Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") appointment and check in. (Id.) 9
Petitioner does not have an order of deportation and has an asylum petition pending.

(Id.) 10 Petitioner currently resides with her significant other and two children aged twenty-one
and 11 nineteen. (Id.) Petitioner works in the agricultural industry and does not have a criminal
record. 12 (Id. at 5.) 13 On October 20, 2025, Petitioner was detained during a routine ICE visit.
(Id. at 3.)

On 14 December 23, 2025, Petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus. (ECF No. 1.) The
same 15 day, Petitioner filed the instant TRO. (ECF No. 3.) 16 II. STANDARD OF LAW 17 For a
TRO, courts consider whether Petitioner has established: "[1] that he is likely to 18 succeed on the
merits, [2] that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary 19 relief, [3]
that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and [4] that an injunction is in the public 20 interest."
Winter v. Nat.

Res. Def. Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008). Petitioner must "make a 21 showing on all four
prongs" of the Winter test. Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell, 632 F.3d 22 1127, 1135 (9th

Cir. 2011). In evaluating a petitioner’s motion, a district court may weigh 23 petitioner’s showings on the Winter elements using a sliding-scale approach. Id. A stronger 24 showing on the balance of the hardships may support issuing a TRO even where the petitioner 25 shows that there are “serious questions on the merits... so long as the [petitioner] also shows 26 that there is a likelihood of irreparable injury and that the injunction is in the public interest.” Id. 27 Simply put, Petitioner must demonstrate, “that [if] serious questions going to the merits were 28 raised [then] the balance of hardships [must] tip[] sharply” in petitioner’s favor in order to 1 succeed in a request for a TRO.

Id. at 1134–35. 2 III. ANALYSIS2 3 A. Likelihood of Success on the Merits 4 Petitioner has established a likelihood of success on her due process claim. The Fifth 5 Amendment Due Process Clause prohibits government deprivation of an individual’s life, liberty, 6 or property without due process of law. *Hernandez v. Session*, 872 F.3d 976, 990 (9th Cir. 2017).

7 The Due Process Clause applies to all “persons” within the borders of the United States, 8 regardless of immigration status. *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 693 (2001) (“[T]he Due 9 Process Clause applies to all “persons” within the United States, including noncitizens, whether 10 their presence here is lawful, unlawful, temporary, or permanent.”). These due process rights 11 extend to immigration proceedings.

Id. at 693–94. 12 Courts examine procedural due process claims in two steps: the first asks whether there 13 exists a protected liberty interest under the Due Process Clause, and the second examines the 14 procedures necessary to ensure any deprivation of that protected liberty interest accords with the 15 Constitution. See *Kentucky Dep’t of Corrections v. Thompson*, 490 U.S. 454, 460 (1989).

16 As for the first step, the Court finds Petitioner has raised serious questions as to whether 17 she has protectable liberty interest. See *Rico-Tapia v. Smith*, No. CV 25-00379 SASP-KJM, 2025 18 WL 2950089, at *8 (D. Haw. Oct. 10, 2025) (noting “[e]ven where the revocation of a person’s 19 freedom is authorized by statute, that person may retain a protected liberty interest under the Due 20 Process Clause”).

As stated, Petitioner was released on her own recognizance shortly after her 21 initial detention on May 27, 2023. (ECF No. 3 at 3.) For two and a half years, she built a life and 22 established a community in Concord, California. (Id. at 5.)

Moreover, she has attended every 23 requisite appointment and check-in. (Id. at 3.) As this Court has found previously, along with 24 many other courts in this district when confronted with similar circumstances, Petitioner has a 25 2 The Court finds Petitioner has met the requirements for issuing a temporary restraining 26 order without notice. See Fed. R. Civ.

P. 65(b). Petitioner has filed the requisite affidavit and notified Respondents via email on December 23, 2025 that she filed the motion. (ECF No. 5.) 27 See *R.D.T.M. v. Wofford*, No. 1:25-CV-01141-KES-SKO (HC), 2025 WL 2617255, at *3 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 9, 2025) (similarly finding requirements for TRO were met without notice); *Pinchi v. 28 Noem*, No. 25-cv-05632-RML, 2025 WL 1853763, at *4 (N.D.

Cal. July 4, 2025) (same). 1 clear interest in her continued freedom. See, e.g., *Doe v. Becerra*, 787 F. Supp. 3d 1083, 1093 2 (E.D. Cal. 2025) (noting the Government’s actions in allowing petitioner to remain in the 3 community for over five years strengthened petitioner’s liberty interest). 4 As to the second step – what procedures or process is due – the Court considers three 5 factors: (1) “the private interest that will be affected by the official action;” (2) “the risk of an 6 erroneous deprivation of such interest through the procedures used, and the probable value, if any, 7 of additional or substitute procedural safeguards;” and (3) “the Government’s interest, including 8 the function involved and the fiscal and administrative burdens that the additional or substitute 9 procedural requirement would entail.” *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 335 (1976).

As set 10 forth below, the Court finds Petitioner has established her due process rights were likely violated. 11 First, Petitioner has a substantial private interest in remaining free from detention. As 12 discussed above, Petitioner was out of custody for two and a half years, had built a life in 13 Concord, and attended every requisite check in. Despite that, Petitioner has now been detained 14 for almost two months without being afforded a hearing.

Accordingly, this factor weighs in favor 15 of finding Petitioner’s private interest has been impacted by her detention. See *Manzanarez v. 16 Bondi*, No. 1:25-CV-01536-DC-CKD (HC), 2025 WL 3247258, at *4 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025) 17 (finding similarly). 18 Second, the risk of erroneous deprivation is considerable given Petitioner has not received 19 any bond or custody redetermination hearing. “Civil immigration detention, which is nonpunitive 20 in purpose and effect is justified when a noncitizen presents a risk of flight or danger to the 21 community.” *R.D.T.M. v. Wofford*, No. 1:25-CV-01141-KES-SKO (HC), 2025 WL 2617255, at 22 *4 (E.D.

Cal. Sept. 9, 2025) (internal quotation and citation omitted). (ECF No. 3 at 3.) 23 Petitioner has no criminal history and represents she has attended every requisite check-in. 24 Petitioner claims she was informed at the time of her detention that she violated the conditions of 25 her release by not properly downloading pictures on her phone. (*Id.*) Based on this record, the 26 Court finds there is a serious likelihood Petitioner will be erroneously deprived of her liberty 27 interest.

Moreover, without any procedural safeguards to determine whether her detention was 28 justifiable, the probative value of additional procedural safeguards is high. *R.D.T.M.*, 2025 WL 1 2617255, at *4. 2 Finally, the Government’s interest is low, and the effort and cost required to provide 3 Petitioner with procedural safeguards are minimal. See *Garcia v. Andrews*, No. 2:25-CV-01884- 4 TLN-SCR, 2025 WL 1927596, at *5 (E.D.

Cal. July 14, 2025). As this Court stated recently, it 5 would be less of a fiscal and administrative burden for the Government to return Petitioner home 6 to await a determination on her asylum case than to continue to detain her. 7 On balance, the Court finds the Matthews factors demonstrate Petitioner is entitled to due 8 process – a hearing to determine whether her detention was warranted.

Accordingly, with respect 9 to her due process claim, Petitioner has shown she is likely to succeed on the merits. 10 B. Irreparable Harm 11 Petitioner has also established she will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of a TRO. 12 The Ninth Circuit recognizes “irreparable harms imposed on anyone subject to immigration 13 detention,” including “the economic burdens imposed on detainees and their families as a result 14 of detention[.]” *Hernandez*, 872 F.3d at 995.

Such harm is present here. Petitioner has been 15 detained for over two months and has been separated from her family. Even if this was not 16 sufficient to establish irreparable harm, “[i]t is well established that the deprivation of 17 constitutional rights ‘unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury.’” *Melendres v. Arpaio*, 695 18 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir.

2012) (quoting *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S. 347, 373 (1976)). 19 C. Balance of Equities and Public Interest 20 As to the final two Winter factors, “[w]hen the government is a party, the analysis of the 21 balance of the hardships and the public interest merge.” *Nat’l Urban League v. Ross*, 484 F. 22 Supp. 3d 802, 807 (N.D. Cal. 2020) (citing *Drakes Bay Oyster Co. v. Jewell*, 747 F.3d 1073, 1092 23 (9th Cir.

2014)). The Court finds there is no equitable reason that would tip the balance in the 24 Government’s favor, because the Government faces no hardship. First, it is clear on this record 25 that the balance of equities tips decidedly in Petitioner’s favor as the Government “cannot 26 reasonably assert that it is harmed in any legally cognizable sense by being enjoined from 27 constitutional violations.” *Zepeda v. U.S. Immigr. & Nat.*

Serv., 753 F.2d 719, 727 (9th Cir. 28 1983). Second, “it is always in the public interest to prevent the violation of a party’s 1 constitutional rights.” *Melendres*, 695 F.3d at 1002. Moreover, “the Ninth Circuit has recognized 2 that the costs to the public of immigration detention are staggering.” *Diaz v. Kaiser*, No. 3:25- 3 CV-05071, 2025 WL 1676854, at *3 (N.D.

Cal. June 14, 2025) (internal citation omitted). 4 In sum, these last two factors also weigh in Petitioner’s favor. Therefore, the Court 5 GRANTS Petitioner’s Motion for a TRO. (ECF No. 3.) 6 IV. CONCLUSION 7 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: 8 1. Petitioner’s Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (ECF No. 3) is GRANTED; 9 2.

The bond requirement of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(c) is waived. Courts 10 regularly waive security in cases like this one. See *Diaz v. Brewer*, 656 F.3d 1008, 1015 11 (9th Cir. 2011); 12 3. Petitioner Aida Amanda A. A. shall be RELEASED IMMEDIATELY from Respondents’ 13

custody; 14 4. Respondents are ENJOINED AND RESTRAINED from re-arresting or re-detaining
15 Petitioner absent compliance with constitutional protections, including seven-day notice 16 and
a pre-deprivation/custody hearing before a neutral decisionmaker, where the 17 Government shall
bear the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that 18 Petitioner poses a danger to
the community or a flight risk, and Petitioner shall be allowed 19 to have her counsel present.

20 5. Respondents are ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE why this Court should not convert this 21
temporary restraining order into a preliminary injunction requiring Respondents to 22 continue to
abide by this Court's order. Respondents shall file responsive papers by 23 Tuesday, December 30,
2025. Petitioner may file a reply, if any, by Monday, January 24 5, 2026.

The parties shall indicate in their briefing whether they waive hearing. Fed. 25 R. Civ. P. 65(b)(3).
The Court will consider any stipulation and proposed order filed by 26 the parties if they agree to a
less demanding briefing schedule. 27 6. Petitioner is ORDERED to immediately serve this
Temporary Restraining Order and 28 Order to Show Cause on Respondents at usacae.ecf2241-
imm@usdoj.gov.

Petitioner] shall file proof of such service no later than 10 a.m. on December 24, 2025. 2 7.
Respondents are hereby notified of their right to apply to the Court for modification or 3
dissolution of the Temporary Restraining Order on two days' notice to Petitioner. Fed. R. 4 Civ. P.
65(b)(4). 5 8.

The Clerk of Court is DIRECTED to update the docket to only list Petitioner's first name 6 and
last initial. 7 IT IS SO ORDERED. 9 | Date: December 23, 2025 Troy L. Nunl 10 Chief United
States District Judge 1] 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28