

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
GEORGIA

M.C.C. v. Warden, Stewart Detention Center, et al.

M.C.C. v. Warden · No. 4:26-cv-120-CDL · Decided January 30, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia ordered the transfer of a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 petition challenging continued immigration detention. Because the petitioner was allegedly detained at the Folkston ICE Processing Center in the Southern District of Georgia, the court directed transfer to the Waycross Division of that district.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Clay D. Land
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia
DECIDED	January 30, 2026
DOCKET	4:26-cv-120-CDL
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging his continued immigration detention. The parties jointly moved to transfer venue because petitioner was detained in Folkston, Georgia, within the Southern District of Georgia.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the statutory and judicial venue rule governing § 2241 petitions challenging present physical custody; no appellate standard of review was stated.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; precedential status unknown.
PARTIES	M.C.C. v. Warden, Stewart Detention Center, et al.

TOPICS

- immigration detention
- federal habeas corpus
- venue
- removal proceedings
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- immigration
- federal habeas corpus
- venue

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether a § 2241 petition challenging present physical custody should be litigated in the federal district where the detainee is confined.
2. Whether venue should be transferred to the Southern District of Georgia because petitioner was detained there.

HOLDINGS

1. A § 2241 habeas petition challenging a detainee's present physical custody should be brought in the federal district where the detainee is confined.
2. The action should be transferred to the Waycross Division of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Whenever a § 2241 habeas petitioner seeks to challenge his present physical custody within the United States, he should . . . file the petition in the district of confinement.” (542 U.S. at 446-47)

“Section 2241 petitions may be brought only in the district court for the district in which the inmate is incarcerated.” (941 F.2d at 1495)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner was challenging his continued immigration detention through a § 2241 petition. The parties represented that he was detained at the Folkston ICE Processing Center in Folkston, Georgia. Folkston is located in Charlton County, within the Southern District of Georgia.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

M.C.C. filed a § 2241 petition in the Middle District of Georgia. The parties filed a joint motion to transfer venue, and the court ordered the action transferred to the Waycross Division of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, 542 U.S. 426, 446-47 (2004)
- *Fernandez v. United States*, 941 F.2d 1488, 1495 (11th Cir. 1991)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
COLUMBUS DIVISION M.C.C.,: Petitioner,: v.: Case No. 4:26-cv-120-CDL WARDEN,

STEWART DETENTION: et al. CENTER,,: Respondents.:
_____ ORDER Petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging his continued immigration detention.

Pet. 2, ECF No. 1. The parties filed a joint motion to transfer venue, contending that Petitioner is currently detained at the Folkston ICE Processing Center in Folkston, Georgia. Joint Mot., ECF No. 5. Folkston, Georgia, is located in Charlton County in the Southern District of Georgia. 28 U.S.C. § 90(c)(4). Challenges to detention are properly brought in the See, e.g. Rumsfeld district in which a detainee is confined., v. Padilla, 542 U.S. 426, 446-47 (2004) (“Whenever a § 2241 habeas petitioner seeks to challenge his present physical custody within the United States, he should... file the Fernandez v. petition in the district of confinement.”); United States, 941 F.2d 1488, 1495 (11th Cir.

1991) (“Section 2241 petitions may be brought only in the district court for see also the district in which the inmate is incarcerated.”); 28 U.S.C. § 2241(a). The Clerk of Court is therefore ORDERED to transfer this action to the Waycross Division of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. See 28 U.S.C. § 90(c)(4). IT IS SO ORDERED, this 30th day of January, 2026.

S/Clay D. Land CLAY D. LAND U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA