

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

Norma Karla Farias Romero v. Director, U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services, et al.

Farias Romero · No. 2:25-cv-01287-JNW · Decided January 12, 2026

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulated motion by the parties in an Administrative Procedure Act action concerning USCIS adjudication of Form I-918/I-918A petitions. The parties request that the case remain stayed until January 23, 2026, and the court orders the case held in abeyance through that date with a status update due then.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jamal N. Whitehead
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
DECIDED	January 12, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-01287-JNW
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought an Administrative Procedure Act action seeking to compel USCIS to issue bona fide or wait-list determinations on Form I-918/I-918A petitions. The parties stipulated to a continued stay while USCIS's adjudication and delivery of employment documentation were completed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Abuse-of-discretion framework for a district court's decision to stay proceedings; the court stated that courts have broad discretion to stay proceedings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential docket-management order

TOPICS

- administrative procedure act
- agency adjudication
- immigration
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should continue the stay of the APA proceedings while the plaintiff awaited delivery of employment documentation from USCIS.

HOLDINGS

1. A court may continue to stay proceedings when good cause supports the stay and the court determines that doing so is appropriate to control the disposition of matters on its docket.
2. The case was held in abeyance until January 23, 2026, and the parties were ordered to submit a status update on or before that date.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Norma Karla Farias Romero filed an APA action concerning USCIS's handling of her and her derivatives' Form I-918/I-918A petitions. USCIS had adjudicated the petitions, but systems issues delayed delivery of employment documentation to Romero. The parties represented that they would stipulate to dismissal once the documents were received.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The case had previously been stayed through January 9, 2026. The parties reported that USCIS had adjudicated the petitions but that the plaintiff had not yet received employment documentation because of USCIS systems issues. The court granted the stipulated request and held the case in abeyance through January 23, 2026, directing the parties to file a status update by that date.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Clinton v. Jones, 520 U.S. 681, 706 (1997)
- Landis v. North American Co., 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936)

OPINION

Norma Karla Farias Romero v. Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, et al.

PER CURIAM.

1 District Judge Jamal N. Whitehead 2 3 4 5 6

7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
8 AT SEATTLE

9 NORMA KARLA FARIAS ROMERO, Case No. 2:25-cv-01287-JNW 10 Plaintiff,
STIPULATED MOTION TO HOLD

11 v. CASE IN ABEYANCE AND ORDER

12 DIRECTOR, U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND Noted for Consideration: IMMIGRATION SERVICES,
et al., January 9, 2025 13 Defendants. 14 15 Plaintiff and Defendants, pursuant to Federal Rule of
Civil Procedure 6 and Local Rules 16 7(d)(1), 10(g) and 16, hereby jointly stipulate and move to
continue to stay these proceedings until

17 January 23, 2026. Plaintiff Norma Karla Farias Romero brings this litigation pursuant to the
18 Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”), seeking an order to compel U.S. Citizenship and 19
Immigration Services (“USCIS”) to either issue bona fide determinations or wait list 20
determinations for her and her derivatives’ Form I-918/I-918A petitions. This case is currently 21
stayed through January 9, 2026. Dkt. No. 12, Order. 22 Courts have “broad discretion” to stay
proceedings. Clinton v. Jones, 520 U.S. 681, 706 23 (1997). “[T]he power to stay proceedings is
incidental to the power inherent in every court to 24 control the disposition of the causes on its
docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for 1 counsel, and for litigants.” Landis v. N.
Am. Co., 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936); see also Fed. R. Civ. 2 P. 1. 3 As previously reported, USCIS
has adjudicated the petitions at issue. Due to USCIS 4 systems issues, Plaintiff has not yet
received the employment documentation in the mail. Once 5 those documents are received, the
parties will stipulate to dismissal of this case. Accordingly, for 6 good cause, the parties stipulate
and respectfully request that this Court continue to stay this 7 litigation through January 23, 2026.
8 DATED this 9th day of January, 2026. 9 Respectfully submitted,

10 CHARLES NEIL FLOYD

United States Attorney 11 s/ Michelle R. Lambert See PDF for Plaintiff’s Signature

12 MICHELLE R. LAMBERT, NYS #4666657 NORMA KALRA FARIAS ROMERO

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Plaintiff 15 Phone: (253) 428-3824 Fax: (253) 428-3826 16 Email: michelle.lambert@usdoj.gov
17 Attorneys for Defendants 18 I certify that this memorandum contains 221 words, in compliance
with the Local Civil 19 Rules. 20 21 22 23 24

1 ORDER

2 The case is held in abeyance until January 23, 2026. The parties shall submit a status 3 /update
on or before January 23, 2026. It is so ORDERED. 4 5 DATED this 12th day of January, 2026. 6 7

□□□ 9 United States District Judge 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

STIPULATED MOTION TO HOLD CASE IN ABEYANCE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

[Case No. 2:25-cv-01287-JNW] - 3 1201 PACIFIC AVE., STE. 700

1 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

2 I hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the United States Attorney for the 3
Western District of Washington and of such age and discretion as to be competent to serve 4
papers. 5 I further certify on today's date, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the
6 Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notice of such filing to the following CM/ECF
7 participant(s): 8 - 0 - 9 I further certify on today's date, I arranged for service of the foregoing on
the following 10 non-CM/ECF participant(s), via Certified Mail with return receipt, postage
prepaid, addressed as 11 follows: 12 Norma Karla Farias Romero, Pro Se Plaintiff 7683 SE 27th
St #218 13 Mercer Island, WA 98040 14 DATED this 9th day of January, 2026. 15 s/ Stephanie
Huerta-Ramirez STEPHANIE HUERTA-RAMIREZ, Legal Assistant 16 United States Attorney's
Office Western District of Washington 17 700 Stewart Street, Suite 5220 Seattle, WA 98101 18
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