

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA, FORT MYERS DIVISION

**Hifis Edgardo Caballero-Murillo v. Immigration and Customs
Enforcement, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S.
Attorney General, Warden Matthew Mordant, and Warden of South
Florida Detention Center**

Caballero-Murillo · No. 2:26-cv-45-KCD-DNF · Decided January 14, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida denied Hifis Edgardo Caballero-Murillo’s motion for a temporary restraining order seeking immediate release from immigration detention. The court held that the petitioner had not clearly shown a substantial likelihood of success on his claims under *Zadvydas v. Davis* or 8 C.F.R. § 241.4, and that alleged procedural defects did not warrant ex parte release. The court also declined to prohibit a transfer because jurisdiction over the habeas petition would not be destroyed by a change in physical custodian.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kyle C. Dudek
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division
DECIDED	January 14, 2026
DOCKET	2:26-cv-45-KCD-DNF
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner filed a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas corpus petition challenging his immigration detention and moved for a temporary restraining order directing his immediate release and prohibiting his transfer outside the Middle District of Florida.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A movant seeking a temporary restraining order must clearly establish a substantial likelihood of success on the merits, irreparable injury absent relief, that the threatened injury outweighs the harm to the nonmovant, and that relief serves the public interest.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential district-court order; persuasive value limited.
PARTIES	Hifis Edgardo Caballero-Murillo v. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Attorney General, Warden Matthew Mordant, Warden of South Florida Detention Center

TOPICS

immigration detention

injunctions

procedural due process

due process

immigration

PRACTICE AREAS

immigration detention

habeas corpus

temporary restraining orders

due process

administrative procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Petitioner clearly established a substantial likelihood of success on his claim under *Zadvydas v. Davis* that his immigration detention was unlawful because removal was not reasonably foreseeable.
2. Whether alleged violations of the procedures governing revocation of immigration supervision justified an ex parte order directing Petitioner's immediate release.
3. Whether the court should prohibit Petitioner's transfer outside the Middle District of Florida to preserve jurisdiction over the § 2241 petition.

HOLDINGS

1. Petitioner was not entitled to emergency release because, having been detained for less than three weeks, he had not shown a substantial likelihood of proving that there was no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.
2. Alleged violations of the interview and notice procedures did not justify an ex parte order of immediate release, particularly where Respondents had not yet had an opportunity to respond.
3. The requested transfer restriction was unnecessary because jurisdiction attaches when a § 2241 petition is filed and is not destroyed by a government-effectuated transfer or change in physical custodian.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A temporary restraining order is a drastic remedy. It requires a court to act on incomplete information, often before the other side has had an opportunity to appear.”

“The denial of a TRO is not a denial of the case.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Petitioner was detained by immigration authorities at Alligator Alcatraz and had been in custody for less than three weeks when the order was entered. He had an Order Withholding Removal from 2022 that restricted

removal to Honduras, and he argued that removal was not reasonably foreseeable. He also alleged that immigration supervision was revoked without the interview, notice, and paperwork required by 8 C.F.R. § 241.4.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner alleged that the government unlawfully detained him by failing to follow procedures governing revocation of immigration supervision and by continuing detention when removal was not reasonably foreseeable. Before Respondents had an opportunity to respond, the court denied the ex parte temporary restraining order because Petitioner had not clearly established the requirements for emergency injunctive relief. The underlying habeas claims remained pending.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Schiavo ex rel. Schindler v. Schiavo, 403 F.3d 1223, 1225-26 (11th Cir. 2005)
- Wreal, LLC v. Amazon.com, Inc., 840 F.3d 1244, 1247 (11th Cir. 2016)
- Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678, 699, 701 (2001)
- Morton v. Ruiz, 415 U.S. 199, 235 (1974)
- Dist. Attorney's Off. for Third Jud. Dist. v. Osborne, 557 U.S. 52, 67 (2009)
- Villa v. Normand, No. 5:25-CV-89, 2025 WL 3113200, at *4 (S.D. Ga. Oct. 16, 2025)
- Rodriguez v. Acting Director of Immigr., No. 2:26-CV-2-KCD-DNF, 2026 WL 83972, at *1 (M.D. Fla. Jan. 12, 2026)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FORT MYERS DIVISION HIFIS EDGARDO CABALLERO- MURILLO, Petitioner, Case No. 2:26-cv-45-KCD-DNF v. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL, WARDEN MATTHEW MORDANT, WARDEN OF SOUTH FLORIDA DETENTION CENTER; Respondents. / ORDER Petitioner Hifis Edgardo Caballero-Murillo is currently detained by immigration authorities at Alligator Alcatraz.

He has filed a habeas corpus petition (Doc. 1) and now seeks a temporary restraining order commanding his immediate release (Doc. 2). He argues that his detention is unlawful because the government failed to follow its own procedures for revoking his supervised release, and because his removal is not reasonably foreseeable. (Doc. 1 at 11-13.)¹ 1 Petitioner's filings are not paginated.

So for ease of reference, the Court will cite the page numbers generated by its electronic filing system. A temporary restraining order is a drastic remedy. It requires a court to act on incomplete information, often before the other side has had an opportunity to appear.

Because Petitioner has not made the clear showing required to justify such a step, his motion is DENIED. I. Legal Standard To obtain a temporary restraining order (TRO), the movant must establish: “(1) a substantial likelihood of success on the merits; (2) that irreparable injury will be suffered if the relief is not granted; (3) that the threatened injury outweighs the harm the relief would inflict on the non-movant; and (4) that entry of the relief would serve the public interest.” *Schiavo ex rel.*

Schindler v. Schiavo, 403 F.3d 1223, 1225-26 (11th Cir. 2005). Immediate injunctive relief is an “extraordinary and drastic remedy, and [the movant] bears the burden of persuasion to clearly establish all four of these prerequisites.” *Wreal, LLC v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, 840 F.3d 1244, 1247 (11th Cir. 2016). II. Discussion Petitioner’s arguments for immediate release face significant hurdles.

He makes two primary claims, neither of which justifies emergency intervention. First, Petitioner argues that Respondents are holding him with no end in sight in violation of the Due Process Clause. (Doc. 8 at 2.) Under the Supreme Court’s decision in *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678 (2001), the government cannot detain a non-citizen indefinitely just because they have been ordered removed.

If removal is not “reasonably foreseeable,” the detention must generally end. *Id.* at 699. But *Zadvydas* also establishes a presumptively reasonable detention period of six months. *Id.* at 701. Petitioner was detained just last month.

As of today, he has been in custody for less than three weeks. To succeed on a *Zadvydas* claim this early, a petitioner must show that there is “no significant likelihood of removal in the reasonably foreseeable future.” *Id.* Petitioner points out that he has an Order Withholding Removal from 2022, but that does not mean removal is impossible; it only restricts removal to a specific country (Honduras).

The government is generally entitled to time to explore alternatives. We are simply too early in the timeline to say the Petitioner has a substantial likelihood of success on this claim. Second, Petitioner argues that Respondents violated his due process rights by revoking his immigration supervision without the interview or paperwork required under 8 C.F.R. § 241.4.

(Doc. 2 at 11.) This is a serious allegation. Agencies must follow their own rules. *Morton v. Ruiz*, 415 U.S. 199, 235 (1974). But in the context of a TRO—where the Court has heard only one side of the story—we must be cautious. Petitioner asserts that no interview occurred, and he was not given notice of the reasons for revocation. (Doc. 2 at 11.)

The government has not yet had a chance to respond. It may be that an interview was attempted, or the notice process is underway. And even if these violations occurred, the typical remedy for a procedural defect is to order the agency to provide the process that was due, not necessarily to order immediate release. See *Dist. Attorney's Off. for Third Jud. Dist. v. Osborne*, 557 U.S. 52, 67 (2009).

The leap from “I didn’t get my interview or notice” to “I must be released immediately” is too far for a TRO to bridge on an ex parte basis. One last ancillary issue. The TRO also seeks an order prohibiting Petitioner’s transfer outside the Middle District of Florida. This will, according to Petitioner, prevent the Court from losing jurisdiction over the habeas petition.

(Doc. 2 at 14.) Such relief is unnecessary. “[J]urisdiction attaches upon the initial filing of the § 2241 petition and will not be destroyed by a petitioner’s subsequent Government-effectuated transfer and accompanying change in physical custodian.” *Villa v. Normand*, No. 5:25-CV- 89, 2025 WL 3113200, at *4 (S.D. Ga. Oct. 16, 2025).² III. Conclusion The denial of a TRO is not a denial of the case.

It is simply a recognition that the Court needs to hear from both sides before altering the ² The Court does not read Petitioner’s TRO as also requesting an order prohibiting his removal from the United States. To the extent such relief is contemplated, however, the Court is without authority to grant it. See *Rodriguez v. Acting Director of Immigr.*, No. 2:26- CV-2-KCD-DNF, 2026 WL 83972, at *1 (M.D.

Fla. Jan. 12, 2026). status quo. The claims raised by Petitioner—particularly regarding the alleged failure of ICE to follow its revocation regulations—are serious and require a prompt answer. But they do not justify an ex parte order of release. ORDERED in Fort Myers, Florida on January 14, 2026. Kyle C. Dudek United States District Judge