

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
GEORGIA, COLUMBUS DIVISION**

M.L.A. v. Warden, Stewart Detention Center, et al.

M.L.A. · No. 4:26-cv-156-CDL-CHW · Decided January 28, 2026

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
COLUMBUS DIVISION M.L.A., * Petitioner, * vs. * CASE NO. 4:26-cv-156-CDL-CHW
WARDEN, STEWART DETENTION * CENTER, et al., * Respondents. * O R D E R The Court
received Petitioner’s application for habeas corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Pet. (Jan. 27,
2026), ECF No. 1.

The Court may apply Rule 4 of the Rules Governing § 2254 cases in this action. SECT 2254 Rule
1(b) (“The district court may apply any or all of these rules to a habeas corpus petition not covered
by Rule 1(a) [which addresses petitions under 28 U.S.C. § 2254].”).

Under Rule 4, if a petition is not dismissed on preliminary review, then “the judge must order the
respondent to file an answer, motion, or other response within a fixed time, or to take other action
the judge may order.” SECT 2254 Rule 4. Applying Rule 4, the Court issues the following order.
This case appears to involve the same issues raised in J.A.M. v. Streeval, No. 4:25-CV-342-CDL,
2025 WL 3050094 (M.D.

Ga. Nov. 1, 2025) and P.R.S. v. Streeval, No. 4:25-cv-330-CDL, 2025 WL 3269947 (M.D. Ga.
Nov. 24, 2025). In those cases, the Court concluded that for noncitizens “who are found in the
country unlawfully and are arrested” without having been inspected by an examining immigration
officer, then “an immigration officer or immigration judge has the discretion” under 8 U.S.C. §
1226(a) to grant them release on bond unless a statutory exception applies under 8 U.S.C. §
1226(c).

J.A.M., 2025 WL 3050094, at *3; P.R.S., 2025 WL 3269947, at *1-*2. Mandatory detention under
8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) “is not authorized” in such cases. P.R.S., 2025 WL 3269947, at *2. Based
upon the rationale of J.A.M. and P.R.S., Respondents in this action are hereby ORDERED to
provide Petitioner with a bond hearing to determine if Petitioner may be released on bond under §
1226(a)(2) and the applicable regulations.

Respondents shall provide this bond hearing within seven days of today’s order. Once a bond
hearing is provided, Petitioner will have received the remedy that the Court is authorized to order,
and Petitioner should file a notice of dismissal. If Respondents seek relief from this order, they

should file an appropriate motion demonstrating why the Court's prior rulings in J.A.M. and P.R.S. do not control the result in this case.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 28th day of January, 2026. s/Clay D. Land CLAY D. LAND U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

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