

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division

EDVIN ADOLFO LOPEZ-SANABRIA,)

Petitioner,)

vs.)

Civil Action No. 1:25cv1511

PAMELA BONDI,)

Attorney General, *et al.*,)

Respondents.)

NOTICE REGARDING PETITIONER'S RELEASE

Pursuant to this Court's order of October 3, 2025, the federal respondents, through their undersigned counsel, hereby respectfully submit the instant notice regarding the release of the petitioner from civil immigration detention in the above-captioned habeas action.

NOTICE

Petitioner Edvin Adolfo Lopez-Sanabria has been released from civil immigration detention. Although that is the extent of the information technically mandated by this Court's order, the federal respondents wish to provide this Court with a more fulsome understanding of the process by which Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") releases an alien from civil immigration detention on bond.

1. Akin to release of a defendant during the pendency of a criminal action on bond, the release of an alien from civil immigration detention on bond represents a form of contract—the individual or entity posting the bond (known as an "obligor") promises to ensure that the alien will abide by the terms of his or her release, including, *inter alia*, appearance at all hearings during removal proceedings. *See, e.g., Buxton R. Bailey, P.C. v. Wolf*, 2021 WL 2585599, at *12 (E.D.N.C. June 23, 2021) ("Generally speaking, an immigration bond is a contract between the federal government and the bond obligor in

which the government releases an alien from custody in exchange for a promise by the obligor, secured by a sum certain, that he will deliver the alien to [ICE] whenever it so requests.”). This contract is reflected through the obligor’s completion and submission of Form I-352. *See ICE Form I-352, available at* << <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/forms/i352.pdf>>> (visited Oct. 7, 2025). If the alien fails to appear for a scheduled appearance, the obligor suffers a “forfeiture of the sum pledged as security as a form of liquidated damages.” *Id.* (citing *Matter of Allied Fidelity Ins. Co.*, 19 I. & N. Dec. 124, 125-26 (BIA 1984)).

In typical circumstances, the process of releasing an alien pursuant to a bond order begins when the obligor – whether it be a family member or friend of the alien, a law firm representing the alien, or another individual or entity – submits an inquiry to an ICE electronic portal called ceBONDS, indicating an interest in posting bond on behalf of the alien. Once ICE receives an inquiry through ceBONDS, an ICE employee dedicated to the bond process will transmit to the obligor instructions on how to make the necessary payment via electronic means (either through FedWire or Automated Clearing House). Once the necessary payment is made, the obligor must transmit the bank receipt to ICE. An ICE employee is then responsible for reviewing the receipt and confirming that the obligor has submitted the correct amount and necessary documentation (including the Form I-352 contract) before the facility in which the alien is being detained can proceed with the steps needed to physically release the alien from civil immigration detention. *See Frequently Asked Questions, available at* << <https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management/bonds>>> (visited Oct. 7, 2025) (“[O]nce a detention facility receives notification that a bond has been posted, detention facility processing times for release may vary and are contingent upon factors including, but not limited to, staffing, operational resources, and case-specific circumstances.”). At bottom, it is an involved process with particularly knowledgeable ICE employees; as such, ICE only accepts bond payments and documentation between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

2. In this habeas action, Lopez-Sanabria filed his petition for a writ of habeas corpus on September 10, 2025 (Dkt. No. 1). After full briefing (Dkt. Nos. 6-7), on October 3, 2025, at approximately 3:22 p.m., this Court entered its order granting the petition into the CM/ECF system, which directed, *inter alia*, that Lopez-Sanabria “be released from custody no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2025, with all his personal property, once he has posted the \$1,500 bond set by the Immigration Judge” (Dkt. No. 9, at 5). Undersigned counsel learned of this Court’s order slightly after 4:00 p.m., through an electronic mail message from Lopez-Sanabria’s counsel.¹

Lopez-Sanabria – through an obligor and with the assistance of his counsel – was not able to attempt to post the correct bond amount through the aforementioned electronic system until approximately 5:35 p.m. that evening. But because ICE bond “office” had already closed, the system was not able to process the payment and related documentation. Nevertheless, even without confirmed payment and related documentation, ICE processed Lopez-Sanabria for release, and Farmville Detention Center was able to release him pursuant to this Court’s order early on the morning of Saturday, October 4, 2025. The necessary bond process has still not been formally completed, but ICE is working collaboratively with Lopez-Sanabria’s counsel to ensure that this occurs as soon as possible.

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¹The Special Assistant United States Attorney assigned to Lopez-Sanabria’s petition was out of the office on Friday, October 3, 2025, without access to electronic mail. An out-of-office message directed counsel to other Assistant United States Attorneys on undersigned counsel’s staff.

Respectfully submitted,

LINDSEY HALLIGAN
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/s/

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ATTORNEYS FOR FEDERAL
RESPONDENTS

Date: October 7, 2025

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send a notification of such filing (“NEF”) to the following:

Eileen Blessinger
Blessinger Legal, PLLC
7389 Route 29, Suite 320
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
Email: eileen@blessingerlegal.com

Date: October 7, 2025

_____/s/_____
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