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10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
12

13 B.S.Z., et al,

14 Petitioners,

15 v.

16 ANA BABUDAR, et al.,

17 Respondents.
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No. 5:26-cv-00701-AH-PD

RESPONDENTS' STATUS REPORT

Hon. Patricia Donahue
United States Magistrate Judge

RESPONDENTS' STATUS REPORT

Following the evidentiary hearing held on April 23, 2026, the Court issued an order [Dkt. no. 37] requiring the parties to file status reports on April 28, 2026 as follows:

[T]he parties' counsel will each file a Status Report regarding A.M.C.R.'s father's sponsorship application and Office of Refugee Resettlement ("ORR") vetting of A.M.C.R.'s father. The Government's Status Report should state whether the Office of Refugee Resettlement ("ORR") has A.M.C.R.'s birth certificate, and if so, state the name of A.M.C.R.'s father listed on the birth certificate. The Governments' Status Report should also list by category the information currently in its possession regarding A.M.C.R.'s father.

[Dkt. 37]. Respondents respectfully provide that information and additional updates regarding the status of the sponsorship process as follows.

1. On April 23, 2026, at 1:50 p.m., the Federal Field Specialist ("FFS") assigned to this case, Edgar Rascon, was contacted by [REDACTED] (the "Sponsor") who is listed as the child's biological father on A.M.C.R.'s birth certificate. During this initial call, Mr. [REDACTED] reported that he was unsure about sponsoring the child and would call back the next day.
2. On April 24, 2026, at 3:48 p.m., the FFS spoke with the Sponsor about the sponsorship process. At that time, the Sponsor mentioned he was fearful that he might be detained based on information he provided during the sponsor vetting process. The Sponsor then stated he would be in contact with the FFS over the weekend after he made his final decision regarding whether to sponsor his son, A.M.C.R.
3. On April 25, 2026, and April 26, 2026, the FFS sent text messages to the Sponsor requesting an update as to whether he would like to move forward with sponsoring A.M.C.R. The FFS also informed the Sponsor that ORR is concurrently vetting a category 3 sponsor¹, [REDACTED], who claims to be the first cousin of the child's

¹ See ORR's description of different categories of sponsors in the ORR Unaccompanied Children Program Policy Guide Section 2.2.1, available here: *(footnote cont'd on next page)*

1 mother (the "Category 3 Sponsor"). The Sponsor told the FFS he would contact
2 the Category 3 Sponsor to come up with a plan as to who would sponsor the child.

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4 4. On April 27, 2026, at 9:25 a.m., the Sponsor told the FFS that he called
5 Petitioner's Counsel, Cynthia Felix, who advised the Sponsor not to contact the
6 Category 3 Sponsor and to proceed with sponsorship of A.M.C.R. himself. At this
7 time, the Sponsor said he was still hesitant to come forward and would make his
8 decision by the end of the day.

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10 5. Later that day, on April 27, 2026, at 5:10 p.m., the Sponsor informed the FFS that
11 he would like to sponsor A.M.C.R. At that time, the FFS informed the sponsor of
12 the first round of documents required to initiate the sponsorship process, including
13 identification documents for the Sponsor, household members, and the alternate
14 caregiver as well as proof of income and proof of address documents. The FFS
15 also reminded the Sponsor that he should complete the Sponsor Application as
16 soon as possible, which was sent to him the same day.

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18 6. On April 27, 2026, at 9:39 p.m. the FFS spoke with the Sponsor again to request
19 his address and proof of address so the home study could be initiated.

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21 7. On April 28, 2026, at 11:10 a.m. the FFS contacted the Sponsor to conduct the
22 sponsor assessment. The case was referred for a home study following receipt of
23 the Sponsor's address. The home study has since been scheduled for April 30,
24 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

25
26 8. On April 28, 2026, the Sponsor also provided identification documents for the
27 household member and alternate caregiver. The Sponsor's identification
28 documents were sent for verification.

9. ORR has reviewed the information previously provided by the Sponsor when he
was being considered as an alternate caregiver for A.M.C.R. as a part of the
application for sponsorship submitted by A.M.C.R.'s mother, who is currently

1 detained and not able to sponsor her child. ORR has received the sponsor's
2 identification documents, proof of income, and Authorization for Release of
3 Information (ARI). ORR has initiated updated internet-based background checks
4 and has scheduled the Sponsor for his fingerprint appointment for April 29, 2026,
5 at 2:00 p.m. At this time, ORR has not received a completed Sponsor Application,
6 but the Sponsor indicated he would be sending that today. ORR will promptly
7 schedule the alternate caregiver's and household member's fingerprinting
8 appointments upon receipt of their completed Authorization for Release of
9 Information forms.

- 10 10. ORR continues to work towards release of the child and is still concurrently
11 vetting the Category 3 Sponsor. The alternate caregiver identified by the Category
12 3 Sponsor attended a fingerprint-based background check on April 24, 2026. The
13 Category 3 Sponsor and household member attended their fingerprinting
14 appointment on April 27, 2026. A home study referral was also initiated for the
15 Category 3 Sponsor. ORR expects this home study to take place on April 30, 2026.

16 Dated: April 28, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

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27 /s/ Daniel A. Beck

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