

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 26-cv-20973-JB

ADRIEL RAMON MESA RODRIGUEZ,
by and through his next friend Arletty Pinero,

Petitioner,

v.

KROME NORTH SERVICE PROCESSING CENTER,

Respondent.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

THIS CAUSE comes before the Court upon *sua sponte* review of the record. On February 13, 2026, Arletty Pinero filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus on behalf of her husband, Adriel Ramon Mesa Rodriguez, challenging his immigration detention. ECF No. [1]. Under 28 U.S.C. § 2242, an “[a]pplication for a writ of habeas corpus shall be in writing signed and verified by the person for whose relief it is intended or by someone acting in his behalf.”

“In habeas corpus cases, courts have long permitted a next friend to proceed on behalf of a prisoner who is unable to seek relief himself.” *Ford v. Haley*, 195 F.3d 603, 624 (11th Cir.1999); *see also Francis v. Warden, FCC Coleman–USP*, 246 Fed. App’x 621, 622 (11th Cir.2007). However, “next friend status is not automatic, but instead the would-be next friend must first prove that the real party in interest cannot pursue his own cause due to some disability, such as mental incompetence, and must show some relationship or other evidence that demonstrates the next friend

is truly dedicated to the interests of the real party in interest.” *Ford*, 195 F.3d at 624 (citing *Whitmore v. Arkansas*, 495 U.S. 149, 163–164 (1990)); see also *Lonchar v. Zant*, 978 F.2d 637, 641 (11th Cir.1992) (holding that the prerequisites for “next friend” status articulated in *Whitmore* apply where a “next friend” seeks a writ of habeas corpus on someone's behalf). In addition, the Petition in the instant case is not verified, and it appears that Petitioner is being detained in the Florida Soft Side South facility in Ochopee, Florida which is located in the Middle District of Florida.

Accordingly, it is hereby:

ORDERED as follows:

1. The Clerk is directed to serve the Petition, ECF Nos. [1], along with a copy of this Order, upon the Civil Division of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Office.

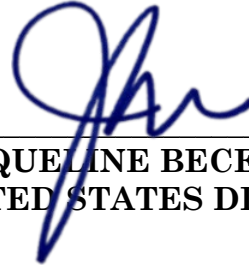
2. Counsel for Respondent shall notify the Court of receipt of this Order and the name of the Assistant United States Attorney to whom the case is assigned.

3. Ms. Pinero shall file a Supplement to the Petition by **February 27, 2026** which demonstrates that she satisfies the standard to proceed as next friend and that jurisdiction of this action is proper in the Southern District of Florida, rather than the Middle District of Florida. If Ms. Pinero seeks to transfer this action to the Middle District of Florida, she should so state in her Supplement.

4. Mr. Pinero shall also, **February 27, 2026**, file a Verification which states that she verifies under penalty of perjury that the information set forth in the Petition is true and correct.

5. Respondent shall refrain from transferring Petitioner out of the jurisdiction of this Court during the pendency of this proceeding.

DONE AND ORDERED in Miami, Florida, this 13th day of February, 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JB', is written over a horizontal line.

JACQUELINE BECERRA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE