

The Honorable James L. Robart

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

Wilman GONZALEZ ROSARIO, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND  
IMMIGRATION SERVICES, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:15-cv-00813-JLR

**DECLARATION OF S.R.R.**

I, S.R.R., hereby declare:

1) My initials are S.R.R. I was born on March 5, 1987. I am keeping my full name and country of origin confidential due to the sensitive nature of my pending asylum case. I am an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) applicant and a class member in this case. I currently live in Orlando, Florida.

2) I entered the United States on or around May 3, 2022. I applied for asylum in June 2022, and applied for initial work authorization November 28, 2022, according to my I-765 receipt notice. As of today, my application has been pending for 53 days. I have attached my initial I-765 receipt notice and USCIS online case status showing the date I filed my application.

3) When I received the I-765 receipt notice, I believed I could expect to receive an

1 EAD in 30 days. This was a relief, because of the desperate situation of myself and my family in  
2 this moment. I figured applying for my work permit would help me get a job to pay for food and  
3 housing. You want to be independent and self-sufficient.

4 4) I am the primary caregiver for my teenaged sibling, who has sickle cell anemia.  
5 He is homeschooled, so every day I help him with his schooling. I frequently accompany him to  
6 the hospital, where he regularly sees a hematologist.

7 5) I was detained after I entered the U.S., and was released on my own recognizance  
8 into the alternative to detention program. After I was released, my sibling and I went to go live  
9 with our aunt.

10 6) My aunt lives in an apartment complex and has several other people staying with  
11 her now, so the only space for me and my brother to reside is the laundry room. We sleep there  
12 with our things packed up next to us. I hoped that my EAD would arrive by December so that I  
13 could be self-sufficient and afford a living situation that accommodated my brother's  
14 homeschooling, and that could afford us privacy and the opportunity to live with dignity.

15 7) In December, my aunt was served a notice that she needs to move out of the  
16 apartment complex. I spent the first two weeks of January calling nonprofits and homeless  
17 shelters in Orlando, trying to find housing for me and my brother. Thus far, I have not had any  
18 luck in finding housing for us. Many places require that I show a recent pay stub to prove that I  
19 am employed in order to apply for housing. Other places require that I possess a valid  
20 identification document, which I do not have.

21 8) I became even more desperate to receive my EAD so that I could use it to get a  
22 driver's license, apply for housing, and apply for jobs. I can't do anything without an EAD. The  
23 situation causes me to feel worried, and scared. I've talked to many organizations, and I've spent  
24


1 days on the phone, trying to find us a place to live.

2 9) It's one thing to worry about where I myself am going to live, but it's another  
3 thing to worry about a minor in your care. Having a stable, healthy living situation is crucial for  
4 my brother's condition. We have to remain aware of his potential for strokes and acute chest  
5 syndrome. Children with sickle cell are prone to infections which can be life-threatening, so if he  
6 gets symptoms like fever or headaches, he has to go to the hospital immediately.

7 10) His doctor told us that prevention is the best treatment. He has to stay hydrated,  
8 and his access to healthy food and water is critical. One day, he was supposed to go to get his  
9 labs done, but we didn't have money for the bus to get there. A social worker called us to ask  
10 where we were and we explained that we didn't have money to get to the hospital. I am grateful  
11 for the hospital social workers, because as I am not from this country, sometimes there are  
12 challenges and roadblocks that I don't know how to navigate.

13 11) I don't want to be a burden on anyone, whether it's a family member or society. I  
14 want to help, not be a burden. For me, getting my EAD is not just about food and shelter, it's  
15 about a pathway to self-sufficiency. For those of us who do not have documents, we are in a state  
16 of limbo. An EAD would allow me to exist.

17 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this  
18 26th day of January, 2023, in Orlando, Florida.

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20   
21 S.R.R.