

CRIMMIGRATION COMMUNICATION

LONG ISLAND
REGIONAL IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

ICE agrees to improve detention conditions at the Central Islip Courthouse Holding Rooms

On December 18, 2025, Judge Gary R. Brown of the Eastern District of New York, a Trump appointee, granted a habeas corpus petition in favor of noncitizen Erron Anthony Clarke citing “inhumane and unlawful treatment” by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Mr. Clarke entered the United States in 2018 on an H-2B visa and remained after his visa expired. After marrying a U.S. citizen, his spouse filed a family petition along with an application for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence on his behalf. Weeks later, Mr. Clarke received a biometrics appointment asking him to appear at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office in Hauppauge for fingerprinting. On December 5, 2025, Mr. Clarke appeared for his appointment and on his way home, he was pursued and detained by ICE. Mr. Clarke had no criminal history.

On December 8, 2025, Mr. Clarke filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the Eastern District of New York seeking his release from custody. Habeas Corpus is a legal procedure that permits individuals detained by the government to challenge the legality of their detention in federal court. The Trump Administration in their effort for mass deportation has dramatically curtailed the authorities (both legal and discretionary) immigration officers and judges can use to release immigration detainees on bond. As a result, attorneys have increasingly turned to filing habeas corpus petitions in federal court on behalf of noncitizens detained by ICE.

At the habeas hearing in federal court on December 11, 2025, ICE did not physically produce Mr. Clarke and he appeared telephonically. At that hearing, the Judge, after learning of the inhumane conditions under which Mr. Clarke was being held in the Federal Courthouse in Central Islip ordered his immediate release upon the posting of \$10,000. However, ICE did not immediately comply and detained Mr. Clarke overnight before releasing him the following day. The Court thereafter issued an order directing the Government to provide additional information, including a written report regarding conditions at the Central Islip Hold Room and details concerning Mr. Clarke’s detention there. The Government submitted a declaration from the Supervisory Detention Officer which the Court then found to be false and unreliable. On December 18, 2025, the Court ordered the government to submit a letter outlining the steps they will take to ensure compliance with the law and explaining why the Court should not enter a finding of contempt based on the Government’s failure to follow prior court orders.

In granting habeas relief, the Court found “extraordinary and exceptional circumstances” warranting release on bail. The Court described the treatment of detainees as “substandard, abhorrent, and likely unlawful,” with particular concern regarding conditions in the Central Islip Hold Room located inside the Central Islip Federal Courthouse. Mr. Clarke and another detainee reported that the holding rooms lacked shower facilities and beds. The rooms were unheated and detainees were forced to sleep in freezing temperatures. The lights remained on at all times. These spaces were designed to hold

a single individual for a short period of time, but the rooms were used to detain multiple individuals for extended periods. Mr. Clarke was confined in one such room with as many as eight other detainees. There was an open toilet in the middle of the room, and the detainees were forced to lie around the toilet. ICE did not provide changes of clothing or basic hygiene items.

As a result of the Court findings, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Joseph Nocella, Jr. and Assistant U.S. Attorney, Richard H. Hayes, submitted a response from ICE addressing Judge Brown's concerns. In that response, ICE represented that they intend to implement a range of corrective measures at the facility. ICE agreed to transfer all detainees to alternative facilities and to limit occupancy to no more than two detainees in each of the four holding rooms. ICE further indicated that they will provide detainees with written information regarding their rights. They also agreed to provide detainees with padded mats and change of clothes, upon request. These reforms took place because the horrific conditions of the facility were exposed and members of the community mobilized in public outrage.

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