

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**IN RE:** :  
 :  
**HABEAS PETITIONS FROM** : **STANDING ORDER 20-13**  
**IMMIGRATION DETAINEES** :  
**SEEKING IMMEDIATE RELEASE** :  
**DUE TO COVID-19** :

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Court has received dozens of emergency habeas petitions from immigration detainees seeking immediate release from detention, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Many of these actions are filed by multiple petitioners who are detained at different facilities within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and are thereby exposed to varying conditions. Additionally, these petitioners differ in their underlying medical conditions which allegedly place them at greater risk if they contract COVID-19. Therefore, given the uniqueness of each petitioner's circumstances,

IT IS this 20th day of April, 2020,

ORDERED that immigration detainees seeking immediate release due to the COVID-19 pandemic shall file their habeas petitions individually, without co-petitioners; and it is further

ORDERED that should these cases be filed with multiple petitioners, the Clerk shall sever the petitioners after the first named petitioner and file all documents in the originally opened case into separate individual actions with one named petitioner, each with his/her own civil action number; the first named petitioner shall remain as the only named petitioner in the initially opened case; and it is further

ORDERED that should these multi-petitioner cases be transferred in from another District, the Clerk shall sever the petitioners after the first named petitioner and file all documents in the originally opened case into separate individual actions with one named petitioner, each with his/her own civil action number; the first named petitioner shall remain as the only named petitioner in the initially opened case; and it is further

ORDERED that when these multi-petitioner cases are severed, each severed petitioner shall be responsible for paying the applicable filing fee or submitting a completed application to proceed *in forma pauperis*; and it is further

ORDERED that all initial multi-petitioner cases and those resulting from the severance of petitioners shall be randomly assigned to individual judicial officers; and it is further

ORDERED that this Standing Order shall not apply to multi-petitioner cases which have been opened prior to the date of this Order; however, a judicial officer assigned a multi-petitioner case opened prior to this date may, in his/her discretion, order the severance of petitioners; and it is further

ORDERED that this Standing Order shall take effect in cases transferred and/or filed in this District after the date of this Order.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER C. CONNER  
Christopher C. Conner, Chief Judge  
United States District Court  
Middle District of Pennsylvania