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The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America.

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VIA FEDEX AND EMAIL

April 24, 2026

Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE, Mail Stop 0485
Washington, DC 20528
ogc@hq.dhs.gov

Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
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500 12th Street, SW, Mail Stop 5900
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OPLAServiceIntake@ice.dhs.gov
OPLA-DCLD-TortClaims@ice.dhs.gov

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Office of the Chief Counsel
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Ste. 4.4-B
Washington, DC 20229
CBPServiceIntake@cbp.dhs.gov

Re: Claims for Damages under the Federal Tort Claims Act —
██████████ (“K.N.”)

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., represents minor child ██████████ (“K.N.”) in this claim against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and any other federal law enforcement agencies or subagencies (collectively, the “Government Agencies”) involved in the arrest and detention of K.N.

Enclosed please find the administrative claim we are filing on K.N.’s behalf under the Federal Tort Claims Act (the “FTCA”). The claim consists of: (1) a Claim Authorization Form signed by K.N.’s mother authorizing the undersigned to file this claim on K.N.’s behalf (Exhibit A); (2) a Standard Form 95 for K.N. (Exhibit B); and (3) an Attachment to the Standard Form 95

detailing the basis of K.N.'s claim (Exhibit C).

The conduct of agents or officers of the Government Agencies on or about July 23, 2025 meets the elements of several torts enumerated by the FTCA and set forth by Texas tort law. Agents of the Government Agencies unlawfully arrested and detained K.N. without any grounds for interfering with his liberty or freedom of movement, and the agents did so on legally prohibited grounds. As a direct and proximate result, K.N. has suffered personal injury and emotional distress.

Under 28 U.S.C. § 2675(a) and 28 C.F.R. § 14.2, we provide this notification and claim for damages for injuries caused to K.N. by agents or officers of the Government Agencies under the FTCA and demand monetary damages in the amount of \$2,500,000 resulting from the tortious conduct of agents of the Government Agencies.

We submit this claim without the benefit of formal discovery. K.N. reserves the right to amend or supplement his claim.

The identity of K.N. is confidential, and we ask that this claim be treated accordingly. If any agency receives a request under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") related to the enclosed claim, or any other information that would reveal the identity of K.N., we ask that the agency: (1) notify the undersigned before responding; and (2) redact any information identifying K.N. pursuant to the FOIA privacy exemption under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), or any other law protecting the privacy of K.N.

If any additional information is required to expedite this request, please contact Nina Perales, MALDEF Vice President of Litigation, at nperales@maldef.org and (210) 224-5476.

Sincerely,



Nina Perales
Vice President of Litigation

Encl: Claim Authorization Form, FTCA Standard Form 95, Claim Attachment

FTCA Standard Form 95 – Attachment

Claimant: [REDACTED] (“K.N.”)

We present the information required in Standard Form 95 below, organized by the categories listed on the form, unless otherwise completed in the form submitted with these materials as Exhibit B.

1. Submitted to (“Submit to Appropriate Federal Agency”):

We submit this claim to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and any other federal law enforcement agencies or subagencies (collectively, the “Government Agencies”) involved in the unlawful arrest, detention, assault, battery, and other tortious conduct that agents or officers of the Government Agencies committed against K.N.

8. Basis of Claim:

On July 23, 2025, agents employed by the Government Agencies unlawfully restrained and detained K.N. and his siblings, Sorayda and Claudia Noyola, all U.S. citizens, in connection with an incident that began near S. Dakota Ave. and Dockberry Rd. in Brownsville, TX 78521.

On July 23, 2025, at approximately 11:00am, K.N. and his siblings were driving in a car near S. Dakota Ave. and Dockberry Rd. in Brownsville, TX, near their mother’s neighborhood, and noticed unmarked cars and masked individuals who appeared to be law enforcement surrounding a construction site and detaining individuals. Some of the apparent law enforcement agents were wearing masks and some were wearing “HSI” jackets or vests. K.N. understood these individuals to be federal agents.

K.N. and his siblings parked their vehicle along a nearby public street and, as they approached on foot along the sidewalk, K.N.’s sister Sorayda began recording a video on her cell phone. K.N. also used his cell phone to take photos and videos. While K.N. and his siblings were at least 15 feet from the agents’ vehicles, an agent immediately approached K.N. and his siblings, asked what their business was there, and made a comment about K.N.’s sister Sorayda Noyola recording with her cell phone. The agent was wearing a baseball hat, sunglasses and a mask that covered his face. The agent also wore denim pants and a jacket with “HSI” printed on it. He wore a badge on the left side of his jacket that appeared to read “Homeland Security Investigations.” The agent and Sorayda discussed whether the agent had the authority to take her cell phone, at which point Sorayda attempted to walk away and the agent grabbed her arm in an attempt to take her cell phone. Other agents began to surround K.N. and his siblings.

An agent wearing a blue t-shirt displaying the message “I’m surrounded by snowflakes” exited a vehicle and walked up to K.N. and his siblings. The agent wore a firearm in a holster and had a badge on his hip that appeared to read “Homeland Security Investigations.” Sorayda stated to the “snowflakes” agent that she had been assaulted by an agent who grabbed her arm and that she wanted to file a report with the police.

The “snowflakes” agent immediately told K.N. and his siblings: “What I’m telling you is that I need to take that phone” and pointed to Sorayda’s phone on which she had recorded video. The “snowflakes” agent continued, “We can put you down on the floor, we can handcuff you, and I’m going to take it either way.” The “snowflakes” agent pointed to K.N. and his sister Claudia Noyola and said “I’m taking that phone and I’m taking that phone.” In the next moment, and without giving Sorayda an opportunity to respond, the “snowflakes” agent yanked Sorayda’s phone from her grasp. Another agent put Sorayda’s hands behind her back. An agent threw Sorayda to the ground.

While Sorayda screamed “no” repeatedly, other agents approached K.N. and Claudia and threw them to the ground and handcuffed them. Sorayda cried out that they were U.S. citizens and that K.N. was a minor. After handcuffing K.N.’s sister Claudia, who was 19 years old and petite, agents lifted her and tried to take a picture of her face against her will while mocking her. After throwing down K.N., [REDACTED], agents stepped on his knees and legs while he was already on the ground. K.N. asked if he could go home because he had not done anything wrong, but the agent told him that he could not leave because they were going to take him along with other arrested individuals.

Agents placed K.N. and his siblings into separate unmarked vehicles. The agents eventually took Sorayda and Claudia to the ICE Field Office in Harlingen. Agents placed Sorayda and Claudia into separate cells. Agents detained the sisters for hours before releasing them without charges.

After arresting him at the construction site, agents placed K.N. into a separate unmarked car alongside someone unknown to K.N. that was arrested earlier that day. Agents interrogated K.N. about whether his mother possessed a social security number and whether she was “illegal.” Agents drove K.N. to his mother’s house and then positioned K.N. outside the fenced yard of the home. Agents stood behind and around K.N. so that he could not walk away from them or go into his house. When K.N.’s mother emerged from the house, agents used K.N. as “bait” and continued to hold him outside the fence, demanding that his mother show her identification. K.N.’s mother, who is a lawful permanent resident of the U.S., asked the agents to identify themselves, but they did not. Eventually, the agents released K.N. to his mother.

Based on the foregoing, the agents of the Government Agencies involved in K.N.’s violent arrest and detention have engaged in tortious conduct including, but not limited to, false arrest, false imprisonment, and assault and battery, and agents violated K.N.’s constitutional rights. The agents committed these torts at least in part to intimidate and discourage individuals such as K.N. from exercising their First Amendment right to document public immigration enforcement operations.

1) False Arrest

The agents involved in K.N.’s detention on July 23, 2025, willfully detained him without authority of law and without his consent. The agents who detained K.N. lacked reasonable suspicion of an immigration violation or any other offense, and intentionally arrested K.N. and his siblings without a warrant or facts, that if proved, would establish probable cause to believe that he posed a risk of flight before a warrant could be obtained.

K.N. has a First Amendment right to record the public operations of law enforcement agents, particularly if agents were indiscriminately targeting Latino individuals such as K.N. and his siblings for detention. The agents had no evidence to charge K.N. with a crime because he was not interfering with law enforcement activities. K.N. did not impede the activities of the law enforcement agents.

The agents were the only individuals presently believed to have been involved in tackling and arresting K.N. near the construction site and causing him physical injury, emotional distress, and economic losses.

The agents are therefore liable for the false arrest of K.N.

2) False Imprisonment

Following K.N.'s violent arrest, agents detained him without charging him with any crime. Agents detained K.N. without cause while he and his siblings were engaged in constitutionally-protected conduct.

The agents initiated all physical contact without cause. The agents deprived K.N. and his siblings of their freedom of movement; agents restricted them from leaving after their arrest at the construction site, and kept them handcuffed in closed vehicles as the agents transported them. Agents transported K.N. to his mother's house and prevented him from entering the house before finally releasing him. K.N. did not consent to be detained. The agents had no legal authority to detain K.N. or his siblings.

The agents' detention of K.N. was willful, without his consent, and without authority of law. Therefore, the agents are liable for the false imprisonment of K.N.

3) Assault and Battery

The agents who tackled, arrested and detained K.N. did so intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, and caused K.N. bodily injury. The agents further caused physical contact with K.N. when the agents knew or should have reasonably believed that K.N. would regard the contact as offensive or provocative.

The agents who tackled, arrested, and detained K.N. are liable for assault and battery. As a result of this assault and battery without his consent, K.N. suffered physical injury and severe emotional distress. K.N.'s injuries are the proximate result of the agents' assault and battery.

10. Personal Injury:

Damages are owed to K.N. for his unlawful assault and battery, restraint, arrest, and detention. K.N. suffers from significant emotional and physical injuries that disrupt his academic performance, relationships, and overall well-being.

K.N. has endured significant harm as a direct result of the actions of government agents. The emotional, psychological, and physical injuries he suffers continue to affect his academic performance and overall well-being. These injuries are directly attributable to the severe trauma agents inflicted on him, for which he is owed compensation.

11. Witnesses:

Possible witnesses include the following: Multiple employees of the Government Agencies, and each entity's contractors, who had contact with or reviewed records related to K.N. from the time of his initial arrest and detention; employees of the Government Agencies involved in developing and carrying out the raid on July 23, 2025; other individuals whom employees of the Government Agencies arrested and detained during the raid on July 23, 2025, including but not limited to any individuals who were held in the same vehicle as K.N.; any local law enforcement agents or officials who participated in the raid in any capacity; supervisors, construction workers, and other employees and contractors who were engaged in work at the construction site that was the subject of the raid on July 23, 2025; individuals who witnessed the incident as bystanders; and K.N.'s mother [REDACTED].

K.N.'s siblings, Sorayda and Claudia Noyola, were present during the incident and are filing administrative claims similar to this one. They are represented by undersigned Counsel and may be contacted through Counsel.

12. Amount of Claim:

K.N. is owed damages in the amount of \$2,500,000 for personal injury.

13b. Phone Number of Person Signing Form.

If any additional information is required to expedite this request, please contact Nina Perales, MALDEF Vice President of Litigation, at nperales@maldef.org and (210) 224-5476.