

United States v. Parada

United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

April 7, 2026, Filed

No. 24-12775 Non-Argument Calendar

Reporter

2026 U.S. App. LEXIS 9861 *; 2026 LX 184060; 2026 WL 936146

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff-Appellee, versus JUAN CARLOS AGUIAR PARADA, a.k.a. JC, Defendant-Appellant.

Notice: PLEASE REFER TO *FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE RULE 32.1* GOVERNING THE CITATION TO UNPUBLISHED OPINIONS.

Prior History: [*1] Appeal from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. D.C. Docket No. 0:21-cr-60213-RS-3.

Disposition: VACATED AND REMANDED.

Counsel: For UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff - Appellee: Michael Brenner, Daniel Matzkin, Webb Daniel Friedlander, LLP, ATLANTA, GA; Laura Thomas Rivero, U.S. Attorney Service - Southern District of Florida, U.S. Attorney Service - SFL, MIAMI, FL.

JUAN CARLOS AGUIAR PARADA, Defendant - Appellant, Pro se, COLEMAN, FL.

Judges: Before BRANCH, ABUDU, and ANDERSON, Circuit Judges.

Opinion

PER CURIAM:

Juan Carlos Aguiar Parada, a federal prisoner proceeding *pro se*, appeals the denial of his motion for compassionate release, pursuant to [18 U.S.C. § 3582\(c\)\(1\)\(A\)](#). After careful review, and in light of intervening case law, we vacate and remand for further proceedings.

Aguiar Parada filed his motion for compassionate release in June 2024 and contended that he was eligible for four reasons: (1) his medical conditions; (2) sentencing disparities; (3) his rehabilitation; and, most relevantly, (4) because he was the "only viable" caregiver for his ill brother. See [U.S.S.G. § 1B1.13\(b\)\(3\)\(C\)-\(D\)](#) (explaining that a defendant can show an "extraordinary and compelling reason[]" for compassionate release where "the defendant would be the *only* [*2] *available caregiver*" for an immediate family member (emphasis added)). After briefing, the district court denied Aguiar Parada's motion in a paperless order. The court's order states that Aguiar Parada "ha[d] not shown 'extraordinary and compelling reasons' warranting a sentence reduction."¹ Aguiar Parada appealed.

While Aguiar Parada's appeal was pending, we issued an opinion in *United States v. Robelo-Galo*, which is relevant to this case. [166 F.4th 1311, 1313 \(11th Cir. 2026\)](#). In *Robelo-Galo*, we answered "a question of first impression: what does it mean for an inmate to be the 'only available caregiver'" under [U.S.S.G. § 1B1.13\(b\)\(3\)](#). *Id.* We rejected

¹ Section 3582(c)(1) gives district courts authority to reduce a defendant's sentence when three conditions have been met. [United States v. Tinker, 14 F.4th 1234, 1237 \(11th Cir. 2021\)](#). Because the district court only ruled on the "extraordinary and compelling" condition, we do not address the others here.

the government's reading of § 1B1.13(b)(3)—that "any potential caregiver who is not himself 'incapacitated' is necessarily 'available'"—and held that "an inmate must demonstrate that no other person is *qualified* and *free* to provide the needed care." [Id. at 1313, 1315](#) (emphasis in original). We explained that this requires a "fact-intensive inquiry" that "will turn on the unique facts of a particular case." [Id. at 1313, 1316](#). We provided a "non-exhaustive list" of five factors "that district courts should consider in determining whether a potential caregiver is qualified and free." [Id. at 1316-17](#). Finally, we held that a district court's decision as to whether [*3] a defendant is the "only available caregiver" under [U.S.S.G. § 1B1.13\(b\)\(3\)](#) is primarily a factual inquiry that we review only for clear error. See [id. at 1316](#).

We often remand when intervening authority alters or clarifies the relevant legal standard. See, e.g., [Powell v. Sch. Bd. of Volusia Cnty.](#), 86 F.4th 881, 883 (11th Cir. 2023) (remanding in light of intervening Supreme Court authority); [United States v. Republic of Honduras](#), 75 F.4th 1288, 1289 (11th Cir. 2023) (*en banc*) (same). This is because, even if the change in law does not establish clearly whether the district court erred, we are "a court of review, not a court of first view." [Callahan v. U.S. Dep't of Health & Hum. Servs. ex rel. Azar](#), 939 F.3d 1251, 1266 (11th Cir. 2019).

In light of *Robelo-Galo*, we vacate and remand for further proceedings. We do so given our explanation of the meaning of "only available caregiver" under [U.S.S.G. § 1B1.13\(b\)\(3\)](#), and our holding that the relevant analysis requires a "fact-intensive inquiry." [Robelo-Galo](#), 166 F.4th at 1316; see [Guevara v. Lafise Corp.](#), 127 F.4th 824, 832 (11th Cir. 2025) (remanding where district court "failed to provide a sufficient explanation to support its ruling"); [United States v. Noriega](#), 676 F.3d 1252, 1263 (11th Cir. 2012) (explaining that we will not make factual findings in the first instance). We express no opinion on whether Aguiar Parada is, ultimately, eligible for a sentence reduction.² However, for the reasons explained, we vacate and remand for further proceedings.

VACATED AND REMANDED.

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² As noted above, the district court did not analyze whether either of the other two prongs of the compassionate release inquiry were met, so we also express no view on whether those have been satisfied. [Tinker](#), 14 F.4th at 1237 ("Because all three conditions [within § 3582(c)(1)(A)] are necessary, the absence of even one would foreclose a sentence reduction.").