



The Office of
Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison
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August 13, 2026

Office of the Governor
Attn: The Honorable Greg Abbott
State Insurance Building
1100 San Jacinto
Austin, TX 78701

Via U.S. Mail and email

Re: Extradition of Christian Castro

Dear Governor Abbott:

I write on behalf of the State of Minnesota about the extradition of Christian Castro. As explained below, I request that you sign a rendition warrant for Mr. Castro's extradition by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17**. If you do not, then I will have no choice but to bring an action to compel you to comply with your duty to extradite a fugitive who is charged with committing crimes in Minnesota.

Background on the Extradition Request. As you know, a district court judge in Hennepin County, Minnesota, found probable cause to believe that on January 14, 2026, Mr. Castro, an ICE agent, fired a gun at the front door of a home in Minneapolis, knew the home was occupied by multiple people, and struck and injured Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis. Based on that conduct, the judge found probable cause to believe that Mr. Castro committed four counts of second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon in violation of Minnesota law. The judge also found probable cause to believe that Mr. Castro committed a misdemeanor offense by falsely reporting a crime. The judge issued a nationwide warrant for Mr. Castro's arrest.

On May 29, 2026, Texas Rangers found and arrested Mr. Castro under the nationwide warrant. After a hearing before a judge in Cameron County, Texas, Mr. Castro was ordered detained pending extradition proceedings.

On June 2, 2026, the Office of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz promptly sent a requisition warrant to your Office for Mr. Castro's extradition.

The Duty to Extradite. Under the Extradition Clause of the United States Constitution, the Federal Extradition Act, and Texas law,¹ Governor Walz's requisition warrant triggered a mandatory obligation for you to issue a governor's rendition warrant to effectuate Mr. Castro's transfer from Cameron County to the State of Minnesota for prosecution.²

¹ U.S. Const. art. IV, § 2, cl. 2; 18 U.S.C. § 3182; Tex. Code Crim. Proc. arts. 51.01, 51.13.

² See *Puerto Rico v. Branstad*, 483 U.S. 219, 227 (1987); *Alabama v. Engler*, 85 F.3d 1205, 1207-08 (6th Cir. 1996).

The Framers of the Constitution, Congress, and the States intended the extradition process to be a swift, summary one in which the asylum state promptly returns a fugitive as soon as the requesting state demands it.³ The duty to extradite is ministerial and non-discretionary. Federal courts have the power to enforce a governor's duty to extradite a fugitive, and a governor "has no power to refuse to extradite a fugitive based on the merits of the fugitive's case."⁴

Consistent with those legal principles—and in the tradition of interstate comity—Minnesota and Texas have long facilitated prompt extraditions to each other. For example, during the last five years, Minnesota sought extradition of 11 individuals from Texas who were charged with crimes in Minnesota. On average, you signed rendition warrants in response to Minnesota's requests in approximately 30 days. Similarly, during the same five-year period, Texas sought extradition of 21 individuals from Minnesota who were charged with crimes in Texas. Governor Walz responded swiftly to those requests: on average, he executed those rendition warrants in fewer than five days. Two were executed while Minnesota's request for Mr. Castro has been pending.

Failing to Extradite Mr. Castro Violates Your Duty and Harms Minnesota. For nearly three months, you have failed to fulfill your duty to execute a rendition warrant for Mr. Castro. You have also failed to respond to multiple requests for status updates from Governor Walz's staff and local prosecuting authorities, including a letter from Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty that was sent on July 30, 2026.

Your failure to fulfill your duty to extradite threatens Minnesota's right to have Mr. Castro returned for prosecution. The risk is heightened by the State of Texas's 90-day limitation on the detention of fugitives awaiting extradition. Texas Rangers arrested Mr. Castro on May 29, 2026, and he has been in custody since then. If Mr. Castro is released from custody, there is a substantial risk that he will flee to avoid prosecution in Minnesota.

Mr. Castro's extradition cannot be delayed any longer. I request that you execute a rendition warrant by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17**, and that you provide a copy of the signed rendition warrant to me at that time via email. If you do not do so, then I will have no choice but to bring a lawsuit to enforce your duty to extradite and to protect Minnesota's rights.

Sincerely,



KEITH ELLISON
Attorney General

cc: Jason T. Bramow, Assistant General Counsel, Office of Gov. Greg Abbott (jason.bramow@gov.texas.gov)
Gabby Gomez, State Extradition Coordinator, Office of Gov. Greg Abbott (gabby.gomez@gov.texas.gov)

³ *Branstad*, 483 U.S. at 227.

⁴ *Engler*, 85 F.3d at 1207 (citing *Branstad*, 483 U.S. at 225).