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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass, Rm. A3042, 425 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20536



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

[Redacted]

FILE: [Redacted] Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA Date: APR 23 2004

IN RE: Applicant: [Redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Permanent Residence Pursuant to Section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act of November 2, 1966 (P.L. 89-732)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

[Redacted]

PUBLIC COPY

**identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy**

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Robert P. Wiemann

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

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prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy**

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Miami, Florida, who certified his decision to the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) for review. The district director's decision will be affirmed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Peru who filed this application for adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident under section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA) of November 2, 1966. The CAA provides, in pertinent part:

[T]he status of any alien who is a native or citizen of Cuba and who has been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States subsequent to January 1, 1959 and has been physically present in the United States for at least one year, may be adjusted by the Attorney General, (now the Secretary of Homeland Security, (Secretary)), in his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe, to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien makes an application for such adjustment, and the alien is eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is admissible to the United States for permanent residence. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to the spouse and child of any alien described in this subsection, regardless of their citizenship and place of birth, who are residing with such alien in the United States.

The district director determined that the applicant was not eligible for adjustment of status as the child of a native or citizen of Cuba, pursuant to section 1 of the CAA of November 2, 1966, because her mother's marriage to her stepfather was a fraudulent one. The district director, therefore, denied the application.

The record reflects that on October 4, 2002, at Miami, Florida, the applicant's mother married [REDACTED] a native and citizen of Cuba whose immigration status was adjusted to that of a lawful permanent resident of the United States, pursuant to section 1 of the CAA. Based on that marriage, on October 15, 2002, the applicant filed for adjustment of status under section 1 of the CAA.

During an interview regarding the application for permanent residence Mr. [REDACTED] admitted that his marriage to the applicant's mother was fraudulent and he entered into the marriage in order to help her get permanent residency status. Mr. [REDACTED] further stated that he does not reside with the applicant's mother or with the applicant. Mr. [REDACTED] statements were videotaped because he is illiterate and could not write a sworn statement. Based on his statements the marriage between the applicant's mother and Mr. [REDACTED] was deemed fraudulent and the application was denied. Since the applicant's mother's marriage to Mr. [REDACTED] was fraudulent the claimed relationship between the applicant and Mr. Bonachea is not valid and the application for adjustment was denied accordingly.

The applicant is not a native or a citizen of Cuba, nor is she residing with her Cuban citizen stepfather in the United States. She is, therefore, ineligible for adjustment of status pursuant to section 1 of the CAA. The applicant was offered an opportunity to submit evidence in opposition to the district director's findings. No additional evidence has been entered into the record.

Pursuant to section 291 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361, the burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that she is eligible for adjustment of status. The applicant has failed to meet that burden.

The decision of the district director to deny the application will be affirmed.

ORDER: The district director's decision is affirmed.