



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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invasion of personal privacy

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FILE:

Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA

Date: MAY 06 2004

IN RE:

Applicant:

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:

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, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

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

The applicant is a native and citizen of Argentina 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 acting 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 Act of November 2, 1966, because the bona fides of her mother's marriage to her Cuban stepfather was not proven. The acting district director, therefore, denied the application. *See Acting District Director Decision* dated May 20, 2003.

The applicant has provided no statement or additional evidence on notice of certification.

The record reflects that on April 27, 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 June 20, 2002, the applicant filed for adjustment of status under section 1 of the CAA.

On May 20, 2003, the applicant's mother and stepfather were scheduled to appear before Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) for an interview regarding the application for permanent residence. Although the applicant and her mother were present her stepfather failed to appear for the interview in order to establish the bona fides of the applicant's mother's marriage. The bona fides of the marriage was not established and the application was denied accordingly. Since the bona fides of the applicant's mother's marriage to Mr. [REDACTED] was not established the claimed relationship between the applicant and [REDACTED] not valid and the application for adjustment was denied.

Although the provisions of section 1 of the Act are applicable to the spouse or child of an alien described in the Act, it has been held in *Matter of Bellido*, 12 I&N Dec. 369 (Reg. Comm. 1967), that an applicant who is not a native or citizen of Cuba and is not residing with the Cuban citizen stepfather in the United States, is ineligible for adjustment of status pursuant to section 1 of the CAA.

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 acting 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 the benefit sought. She has failed to meet that burden.

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

ORDER: The acting district director's decision is affirmed.