



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Public Copy

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



FILE: [REDACTED]
EAC 98 083 51823

Office: Vermont Service Center

Date: JUL 19 2001

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:



APPLICATION: Petition for Special Immigrant Battered Spouse Pursuant to Section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



INSTRUCTIONS:

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

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

Identifying data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Acting Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The preference visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center. A subsequent appeal was dismissed by the Associate Commissioner for Examinations. The matter is now before the Associate Commissioner on a motion to reopen. The motion will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a native and citizen of the Dominican Republic who is seeking classification as a special immigrant pursuant to section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii), as the battered spouse of a United States citizen.

The director denied the petition after determining that the petitioner failed to establish that she: (1) has resided in the United States with the citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(1)(i)(D); (2) has been battered by, or has been the subject of extreme cruelty perpetrated by, the citizen or lawful permanent resident during the marriage; or is the parent of a child who has been battered by, or has been the subject of extreme cruelty perpetrated by, the citizen or lawful permanent resident during the marriage pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(1)(i)(E); (3) is a person whose deportation (removal) would result in extreme hardship to herself, or to her child pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(1)(i)(G); and (4) entered into the marriage to the citizen or lawful permanent resident in good faith pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(1)(i)(H). The director, therefore, denied the petition.

Upon review of the record of proceeding, the Associate Commissioner determined that the petitioner has failed to submit additional documentation to overcome the director's findings. He, therefore, concurred with the director's conclusion and denied the petition on May 3, 2000.

On motion, counsel asserts that the Service incorrectly applied the law when it made its initial decision in the case. He further asserts that the petitioner clearly demonstrated that she met the prerequisites of the law by submission of her affidavit and additional evidence. However, no additional evidence was furnished on appeal. Rather, he requests that the Service reconsider its original decision.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(2), a motion to reopen must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceedings and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. A motion that does not meet applicable requirements shall be dismissed. 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(4).

Based on the plain meaning of "new," a new fact is held to be evidence that was not available and could not have been discovered or presented in the previous proceeding.¹

When used in the context of a motion to reopen in analogous legal disciplines, the terminology "new facts" or "new evidence" has been determined to be evidence that was previously unavailable during the prior proceedings. In removal hearings and other proceedings before the Board of Immigration Appeals, "[a] motion to reopen proceedings shall not be granted unless it appears to the Board that evidence sought to be offered is material and was not available and could not have been discovered or presented at the former hearing...." 8 C.F.R. 3.2 (1999). In examining the authority of the Attorney General to deny a motion to reopen in deportation proceedings, the Supreme Court has found that the appropriate analogy in criminal procedure would be a motion for a new trial on the basis of newly discovered evidence. INS v. Doherty, 502 U.S. 314, 323 (1992); INS v. Abudu, 485 U.S. 94, 100 (1988). In federal criminal proceedings, a motion for a new trial based on newly discovered evidence "may not be granted unless....the facts discovered are of such nature that they will probably change the result if a new trial is granted,....they have been discovered since the trial and could not by the exercise of due diligence have been discovered earlier, and....they are not merely cumulative or impeaching." Matter of Coelho, 20 I&N Dec. 464, 472 n.4 (BIA 1992) (quoting Taylor v. Illinois, 484 U.S. 400, 414 n.18 (1988)).

While counsel, on motion, asserts that the petitioner clearly demonstrated that she met the prerequisites of the law by submissions of her affidavit and additional evidence, the record reflects that the director, in his decision, reviewed the record of proceeding and found that the petitioner failed to establish that she qualifies for the benefit sought. The Associate Commissioner also reviewed the record of proceeding and determined that counsel's brief on appeal contains excerpts of documents previously provided and that this evidence was evaluated and discussed by the director in his decision. He, therefore, concluded that the petitioner has failed to establish eligibility for the benefit sought.

¹ The word "new" is defined as "1. having existed or been made for only a short time.... 3. Just discovered, found, or learned <new evidence>" WEBSTER'S II NEW RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY DICTIONARY 792 (1984) (emphasis in original).

The petitioner has presented no new facts or other documentary evidence in support of the motion to reopen.

Motions for the reopening of immigration proceedings are disfavored for the same reasons as are petitions for rehearing and motions for a new trial on the basis of newly discovered evidence. INS v. Doherty, supra, at 323 (citing INS v. Abudu, 485 U.S. at 107-108). A party seeking to reopen a proceeding bears a "heavy burden." INS v. Abudu, supra, at 110.

In visa petition proceedings, the burden of proving eligibility for the benefit sought remains entirely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. Here, that burden has not been met.

ORDER: The motion is dismissed.