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Immigration and Naturalization Service

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425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



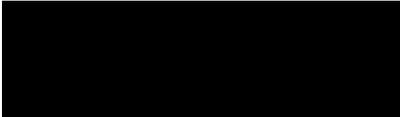
25 JUL 2002

FILE: [Redacted]
EAC 01 241 50792

Office: Vermont Service Center

Date:

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: Self-represented

Public Copy

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.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The preference visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a native and citizen of El Salvador 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 determined that the petitioner failed to establish that she: (1) is a person of good moral character; and (2) entered into the marriage to the citizen or lawful permanent resident in good faith. The director, therefore, denied the petition.

On appeal, the petitioner submits additional evidence and states that she is awaiting the report regarding her good conduct certificate from the New York Police Department. She indicates that she is sending a brief and/or evidence within 30 days. However, it has been approximately six months since the filing of the appeal in this matter, and neither a brief nor additional evidence has been received in the record of proceeding.

8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(1) states, in pertinent part, that:

(i) A spouse may file a self-petition under section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) or 204(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act for his or her classification as an immigrant relative or as a preference immigrant if he or she:

(A) Is the spouse of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States;

(B) Is eligible for immigrant classification under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) or 203(a)(2)(A) of the Act based on that relationship;

(C) Is residing in the United States;

(D) Has resided in the United States with the citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse;

(E) 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;

- (F) Is a person of good moral character;
- (G) Is a person whose deportation (removal) would result in extreme hardship to himself, herself, or his or her child; and
- (H) Entered into the marriage to the citizen or lawful permanent resident in good faith.

The petition, Form I-360, shows that the petitioner entered the United States without inspection in December 1995. The petitioner married her United States citizen spouse on March 25, 1997 at New York, New York. On August 1, 2001, a self-petition was filed by the petitioner claiming eligibility as a special immigrant alien who has been battered by, or has been the subject of extreme cruelty perpetrated by, her U.S. citizen spouse during their marriage.

PART I

8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(1)(i)(F) requires the petitioner to establish that she is a person of good moral character. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(2)(v), primary evidence of the self-petitioner's good moral character is the self-petitioner's affidavit. The affidavit should be accompanied by a local police clearance or a state-issued criminal background check for each locality or state in the United States in which the self-petitioner has resided for six or more months during the three-year period immediately preceding the filing of the petition. Self-petitioners who lived outside the United States during this time should submit a police clearance, criminal background check, or similar report issued by the appropriate authority in each foreign country in which he or she resided for six or more months during the 3-year period immediately preceding the filing of the self petition.

The director determined that the petitioner failed to submit any evidence of good moral character although she was requested on September 26, 2001 to submit additional evidence. On appeal, the petitioner furnished a copy of a receipt for the processing of a good conduct certificate from the New York Police Department. While the petitioner requested 30 days in which to submit the certificate, no additional evidence has been received. Nor did the petitioner submit a self-affidavit attesting to her good moral character.

The petitioner has failed to overcome the director's finding pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(1)(i)(F).



PART II

8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(1)(i)(H) requires the petitioner to establish that she entered into the marriage to the citizen in good faith.

The director reviewed the evidence furnished by the petitioner and determined that the affidavits furnished, including her self-statement, establish that the petitioner and her spouse have resided together. However, although the director listed examples of evidence she may submit to show good-faith marriage, the evidence furnished by the petitioner failed to establish that she entered into the marriage to the citizen in good faith.

On appeal, the petitioner submits a copy of a 1998 income tax return. This tax return without supporting documentation is not sufficient evidence of a good-faith marriage. While this document and other documents in the record establish that the petitioner and her spouse had resided together, the petitioner has failed to establish that she entered into the marriage to the U.S. citizen in good faith and to overcome the director's finding pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 204.2(c)(1)(i)(H).

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has not met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.