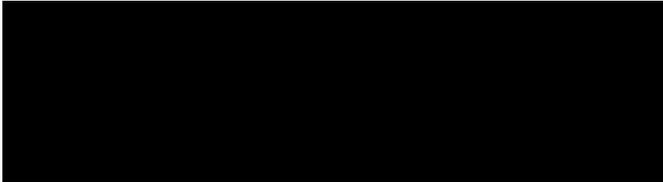




U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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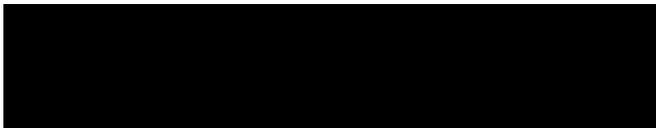
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FILE: [REDACTED]  
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Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

IN RE: Petitioner:  
Beneficiary:



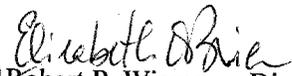
PETITION: Petition for Special Immigrant Battered Spouse Pursuant to Section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



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

Identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy

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**DISCUSSION:** The preference visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The petitioner is a native of the former Soviet Union and citizen of Russia 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, finding that the petitioner failed to establish that she entered into the marriage to the citizen in good faith.

On appeal, counsel for the petitioner submits additional evidence.

Section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Act provides, in pertinent part, that an alien who is the spouse of a United States citizen, who is a person of good moral character, who is eligible to be classified as an immediate relative, and who has resided with his spouse, may self-petition for immigrant classification if the alien demonstrates to the Attorney General that—

(aa) the marriage or the intent to marry the United States citizen was entered into in good faith by the alien; and

(bb) during the marriage or relationship intended by the alien to be legally a marriage, the alien or a child of the alien has been battered or has been the subject of extreme cruelty perpetrated by the alien's spouse or intended spouse.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(c)(1)(i) states, in pertinent part, that:

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 . . . 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; [and]

\* \* \*

(H) Entered into the marriage to the citizen or lawful permanent resident in good faith.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(c)(1)(ix) states, in part:

*Good faith marriage.* A spousal self-petition cannot be approved if the self-petitioner entered into the marriage to the abuser for the primary purpose of circumventing the immigration laws.

The record reflects that the petitioner last entered the United States as a K-1 (fiancée) nonimmigrant visitor on May 4, 1999. According to the evidence on the record, the petitioner wed United States citizen Nelson Jones on August 7, 1999 in Joliet, Illinois. The record further reflects that on the day after the petitioner contacted the police regarding a domestic abuse incident, her spouse forced her to leave their home and the petitioner entered a shelter. On November 30, 1999, the petitioner filed a self-petition 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.

Because the petitioner furnished insufficient evidence to establish that she entered into the marriage to her citizen spouse in good faith, the director requested additional evidence in his Notice of Intent to Deny. The petitioner responded to the director's Notice of Intent to Deny.

The director, in his decision, reviewed and discussed the evidence furnished by the petitioner. The discussion will not be repeated here.

On appeal, counsel for the petitioner submits new evidence. The evidence submitted includes seven detailed and consistent affidavits of eye-witnesses to the courtship and marriage of the petitioner and her spouse; copies of correspondence between the petitioner and her then fiancé showing courtship; photographs of the petitioner's wedding and courtship, and a copy of the petitioner and her husband's purchase agreement for a home. In review, the evidence is sufficient to establish that the petitioner entered into the marriage in good faith.

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 met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be sustained.

**ORDER:** The appeal is sustained.