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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
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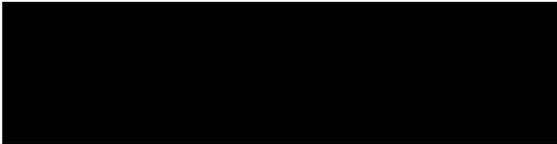
Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: DEC 27 2007

IN RE: Petitioner: [REDACTED]

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

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.

Maura Deadrick
Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, Vermont Service Center, denied the immigrant visa petition. On appeal, the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) remanded the matter for further action. The matter is now before the AAO upon certification of the director's subsequent, adverse decision. The decision of the director will be affirmed and the petition will be denied.

The petitioner seeks immigrant classification pursuant to section 204(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(B)(ii), as an alien battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

Section 204(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act provides, in pertinent part, that an alien who is the spouse of a lawful permanent resident of the United States may self-petition for preference immigrant classification if the alien demonstrates that he or she entered into the marriage with the lawful permanent resident spouse in good faith and that during the marriage, the alien or a child of the alien was battered by or was the subject of extreme cruelty perpetrated by the alien's spouse. In addition, the alien must show that he or she is eligible to be classified as a preference immigrant under section 203(a)(2)(A) of the Act, resided with the spouse, and is a person of good moral character. Section 204(a)(1)(B)(ii)(II), 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(B)(ii)(II).

Section 204(a)(1)(J) of the Act states, in pertinent part:

In acting on petitions filed under clause (iii) or (iv) of subparagraph (A) or clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (B), or in making determinations under subparagraphs (C) and (D), the [Secretary of Homeland Security] shall consider any credible evidence relevant to the petition. The determination of what evidence is credible and the weight to be given that evidence shall be within the sole discretion of the [Secretary of Homeland Security].

In this case, the director initially denied the petition on February 28, 2006 for failure to establish the requisite qualifying relationship and corresponding eligibility for preference immigrant classification. In its November 15, 2006 decision on appeal, the AAO concurred with the director's determinations, further found that the petitioner had not established her good moral character and remanded the petition for issuance of a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID) in compliance with the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(c)(3)(ii). Upon remand, the director issued a NOID on December 6, 2006, which informed the petitioner that she had failed to establish the requisite qualifying relationship, corresponding eligibility for preference immigrant classification and good moral character. The petitioner did not respond to the NOID. Accordingly, the director denied the petition on May 23, 2007 on the grounds cited in the NOID. In her Notice of Certification, the director informed the petitioner, through counsel, that she could submit a brief to the AAO within 30 days after service of the certified decision. To date, seven months later, the AAO has received nothing further from counsel or the petitioner.

The relevant evidence submitted below was discussed in our prior decision, incorporated here by reference. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) has received no further evidence or brief from counsel or the petitioner since that decision was issued. Accordingly, the May 23, 2007 decision of the

director denying the petition is affirmed. The petitioner has not demonstrated that she had a qualifying relationship with her former husband, was eligible for preference immigrant classification based on such a relationship and that she is a person of good moral character. The petitioner is consequently ineligible for immigrant classification under section 204(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act.

The petition will be denied for the above stated reasons, with each considered as an independent and alternative basis for denial. 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. The petitioner has not sustained that burden.

ORDER: The director's decision of May 23, 2007 is affirmed. The petition is denied.