



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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



FEB 12 2001

File: EAC 98 104 54354 Office: Vermont Service Center Date:

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:



Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



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.

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FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Acting Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director. A subsequent appeal was dismissed by the Associate Commissioner for Examinations. The matter is now before the Associate Commissioner on a motion to reopen and reconsider. The motion will be granted and the previous decisions of the director and the Associate Commissioner will be affirmed.

The petitioner is a day care center which seeks to employ the beneficiary as a teacher for toddlers for a three-year period. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the offered position is a specialty occupation.

On appeal, counsel stated that the director misconstrued the position as one of "preschool teacher" when the position is one of "kindergarten teacher." Counsel further stated that the Department of Labor's (DOL) Occupational Outlook Handbook (Handbook) indicates that a kindergarten teacher requires a minimum of a baccalaureate degree. Counsel argues that the DOL's Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) specifies an SVP level of 7 which denotes a Standard Vocational Preparation of from 2 to 4 years, which would require a minimum of a baccalaureate degree.

On motion, counsel lists the names and educational attainments of the individuals who have taught kindergarten at the Center over the last two years. Counsel argues that all of these individuals hold a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in either elementary or early childhood education. Counsel asserts that the offered position is very similar to that position which requires a Standard Vocational Preparation of 7 in the DOL's DOT. The petitioner acknowledges that some pre-schools may have under qualified teachers but asserts that this is not the case at the petitioning organization. Counsel requests that the visa petition be approved.

Again, a reference in the DOL's DOT, Fourth Edition, 1977 is not enough to establish an occupation is within the professions or is a specialty occupation. The DOT is not designed as a definitive guide for adjudication of petitions for immigration benefits. The Department of Labor acknowledged this fact on page xiii of the DOT when it stated:

In using the Dictionary, one should note that the U.S. Employment Service has no responsibility for...setting jurisdictional matters in relation to different occupations.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), provides in part for nonimmigrant classification to qualified aliens who are coming temporarily to the United States to perform services in a specialty occupation. Section 214(i)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(1), defines a "specialty occupation" as an occupation that requires

theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge, and attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty (or its equivalent) as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to section 214(i)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(2), to qualify as an alien coming to perform services in a specialty occupation the beneficiary must hold full state licensure to practice in the occupation, if such licensure is required to practice in the occupation. In addition, the beneficiary must have completed the degree required for the occupation, or have experience in the specialty equivalent to the completion of such degree and recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions relating to the specialty.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(B), the petitioner shall submit the following with an H-1B petition involving a specialty occupation:

1. A certification from the Secretary of Labor that the petitioner has filed a labor condition application with the Secretary,
2. A statement that it will comply with the terms of the labor condition application for the duration of the alien's authorized period of stay, and
3. Evidence that the alien qualifies to perform services in the specialty occupation.

The petitioner has provided a certified labor condition application and a statement that it will comply with the terms of the labor condition application.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C), to qualify to perform services in a specialty occupation, the alien must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Hold a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
2. Hold a foreign degree determined to be equivalent to a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
3. Hold an unrestricted State license, registration, or certification which authorizes him or her to fully practice the specialty occupation and be immediately

engaged in that specialty in the state of intended employment; or

4. Have education, specialized training, and/or progressively responsible experience that is equivalent to completion of a United States baccalaureate or higher degree in the specialty occupation and have recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions directly related to the specialty.

The beneficiary was awarded the title of "Educator of Kindergartners" in 1989 from the Instituto Profesional Libertador de Los Andes in the Republic of Chile. It is determined that the beneficiary qualifies for the offered position.

The term "specialty occupation" is defined at 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(ii) as:

an occupation which requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge in fields of human endeavor including, but not limited to, architecture, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and health, education, business specialties, accounting, law, theology, and the arts, and which requires the attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher in a specific specialty, or its equivalent, as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A), to qualify as a specialty occupation, the position must meet one of the following criteria:

1. A baccalaureate or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum requirement for entry into the particular position;
2. The degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations or, in the alternative, an employer may show that its particular position is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree;
3. The employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position; or
4. The nature of the specific duties is so specialized and complex that knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree.

The duties of the offered position are listed as:

Georgina will be in charge of the toddler room, where she will be responsible for paper work, a monthly newsletter, all art projects and the nurturing and well being of the children in her care. She is well qualified and very personable to establish a rapport with the children and parents. Georgina is also certified in CPR/First Aid.

The petitioner asserts that all of the individuals it has hired as kindergarten teachers for the last two years hold a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in either elementary or early childhood education. On motion, the petitioner has provided no evidence in support of this assertion.

The petitioner has yet to establish that any of the four factors enumerated above are present in this proceeding. The petitioner has not shown that it has, in the past, required the services of individuals with baccalaureate or higher degrees in a specialized area for the offered position. In addition, the petitioner has not shown that similar firms require the services of such individuals in parallel positions.

The DOL's Handbook, 1998-1999 edition, at page 334 finds no requirement of a baccalaureate or higher degree in a specialized area for employment as a preschool teacher or child care worker. Some preschool teachers hold baccalaureate or higher degrees while others hold associate (two-year) degrees or high school diplomas. In view of the foregoing, it is concluded that the petitioner has not demonstrated that the offered position is a specialty occupation within the meaning of regulations.

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 sustained that burden.

ORDER: The order of January 29, 1999 dismissing the appeal is affirmed.