



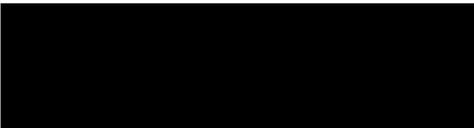
DA

U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Deleting data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy.

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



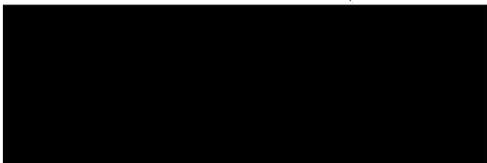
File: WAC-01-269-50204 Office: California Service Center

Date: JUL 18 2002

IN RE: Petitioner: [Redacted]
Beneficiary: [Redacted]

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.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the director and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The decision of the director will be withdrawn and the petition will be remanded for further consideration.

The petitioner is a Montessori school with four employees and an approximate gross annual income of \$80,000. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a teacher for a period of three years. The director determined the petitioner had not established that the proffered position is a specialty occupation.

On appeal, counsel submits a brief.

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.

The director denied the petition because the proffered position is primarily that of a childcare worker, a position that is not a specialty occupation. On appeal, counsel states, in part, that the proposed duties are those of a teacher following an established curriculum and programmed assignment lesson plan. Counsel further states that due to the specialized and complex nature of such duties, a bachelor's degree is required.

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 proffered position are described in pertinent part as follows:

[The beneficiary] will perform specialized professional services for our company, including preparing lessons using Montessori method and delivering those lessons to preschool children to develop their social, physical and intellectual skills to get them ready for kindergarten and primary school.

It is noted that the Department of Labor's (DOL) Occupational Outlook Handbook (Handbook), 1998-1999 edition, states at page 334 that:

Other schools require their own specialized training. Montessori preschool teachers must complete an additional year of training after receiving their bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field.

The proffered position appears to be that of a school teacher. The DOL's Handbook, 2002-2003 edition, indicates that a minimum requirement for employment as a school teacher is a bachelor's degree and completion of an approved teacher training program. In view of the foregoing, it is concluded that the petitioner has

demonstrated that the proffered position is a specialty occupation within the meaning of regulations.

The director has not determined whether the beneficiary qualifies to perform services in a specialty occupation. It is noted that although the record indicates that the beneficiary holds a baccalaureate degree in elementary education, there is no evidence that she has the required extra year of Montessori-related training that is mentioned in the Handbook. Accordingly, the matter will be remanded to the director to make such a determination and to review all relevant issues. The director may request any additional evidence he deems necessary. The petitioner may also provide additional documentation within a reasonable period to be determined by the director. Upon receipt of all evidence and representations, the director will enter a new decision.

ORDER: The decision of the director is withdrawn. The matter is remanded to him for further action and consideration consistent with the above discussion and entry of a new decision which, if adverse to the petitioner, is to be certified to the Associate Commissioner for review.