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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

D6

SEP 23 2005

FILE:

[REDACTED]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

EAC 04 082 51543

IN RE:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]

Beneficiary:

PETITION: Petition for Alien Fiancé(e) Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(K)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER: SELF-REPRESENTED

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

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

The petitioner is a citizen of the United States who seeks to classify the beneficiary, a native and citizen of the Philippines, as the fiancé of a United States citizen pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(K).

The acting director denied the petition after determining that the petitioner had not submitted credible documentary evidence to establish the fiancé relationship within the meaning of section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Act. *Decision of the Acting Director*, dated June 18, 2004.

Section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(K), provides nonimmigrant classification to an alien who:

- (i) is the fiancé(e) of a U.S. citizen and who seeks to enter the United States solely to conclude a valid marriage with that citizen within 90 days after admission;
- (ii) has concluded a valid marriage with a citizen of the United States who is the petitioner, is the beneficiary of a petition to accord a status under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) that was filed under section 204 by the petitioner, and seeks to enter the United States to await the approval of such petition and the availability to the alien of an immigrant visa; or
- (iii) is the minor child of an alien described in clause (i) or (ii) and is accompanying, or following to join, the alien.

Section 214(d) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1184(d), states, in pertinent part, that a fiancé(e) petition:

. . . shall be approved only after satisfactory evidence is submitted by the petitioner to establish that the parties have previously met in person within two years before the date of filing the petition, have a bona fide intention to marry, and are legally able and actually willing to conclude a valid marriage in the United States within a period of ninety days after the alien's arrival. . . .

In response to the director's request for evidence and additional information, the petitioner submitted a judgment of divorce nisi dated February 11, 2004 for her previous marriage. The submitted documentation indicates that the previous marriage of the petitioner became final on May 12, 2004.

On appeal, the petitioner states that she did not realize that her court appearance during January 2004 was for approval of a separation agreement. She indicates that she is hoping that the appropriate time has now passed and that she is free to marry the beneficiary. *Form I-290B*, dated July 19, 2004.

The AAO finds that the Form I-129F Petition for Alien Fiancé(e) was filed on January 29, 2004, prior to the termination of the petitioner's previous marriage. The record on appeal, therefore, fails to establish that the petitioner was legally able and actually willing to conclude a valid marriage in the United States *at the time of the filing of the Form I-129F petition*. Therefore, the appeal will be dismissed.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(k)(2), the denial of the petition is without prejudice. The petitioner may file a new Form I-129F petition on the beneficiary's behalf when sufficient evidence is available.

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

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.