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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



FILE: [Redacted] Office: Portland (POO)

Date: 15 AUG 2002

IN RE: Applicant: [Redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Naturalization under Section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1433

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

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.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Portland, Oregon, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant was born on November 23, 1982, in India of unknown parents. On November 7, 1969, [REDACTED] a United States citizen, married [REDACTED] a United States citizen. The applicant was issued an immigrant visa and was lawfully admitted for permanent residence on February 27, 1983. On August 20, 1984, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] adopted the applicant. The applicant seeks a certificate of citizenship under section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1433.

The district director reviewed the record and concluded that the applicant is over the age of 18 years and ineligible for the benefit sought. The district director then denied the application accordingly.

On appeal, the applicant (through his father) discusses the problems encountered subsequent to filing the application in August 2000 and the belief that approval of the application before the child's 18th birthday will make the child a United States citizen as of the date the application is approved.

Section 322 of the Act was amended by the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, Pub.L. No. 106-395, 114 Stat. 1631 (CCA), effective February 27, 2001, and provides benefits only to those persons who had not yet reached their 18th birthday. The applicant was 18 years and 3 months old on February 27, 2001.

Section 322 of the Act effective prior to February 27, 2001, provides, in part, that:

(a) A parent who is a citizen of the United States may apply to the Attorney General for a certificate of citizenship on behalf of a child born outside the United States. The Attorney General shall issue such a certificate of citizenship upon proof to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the following conditions have been fulfilled:

- (1) At least one parent is a citizen of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization.
- (2) The child is physically present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission.
- (3) The child is under the age of 18 years and in the legal custody of the citizen parent.
- (4) If the citizen parent is an adoptive parent of the child, that child was adopted by the citizen parent before the child reached the age of 16 years

and the child meets the requirements for being a child under subparagraph (E) or (F) of section 101(b)(1).

(5) If the citizen parent has not been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years-

(A) the child is residing permanently in the United States with the citizen parent, pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence, or

(B) a citizen parent of the citizen parent has been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after the age of fourteen years.

(b) Upon approval of the application (which may be filed abroad) and, except as provided in the last sentence of section 337(a), upon taking and subscribing before an officer of the Service within the United States to the oath of allegiance required by this Act of an applicant for naturalization, the child shall become a citizen of the United States and shall be furnished by the Attorney General with a certificate of citizenship.

8 C.F.R. 322.2(a) provides that to be eligible for naturalization under section 322 of the Act, a child on whose behalf an application for naturalization has been filed by a parent who is, at the time of filing, a citizen of the United States, must:

(1) Be unmarried and under 18 years of age, both at the time of application and at the time of admission to citizenship;

(2) Reside permanently in the United States, in the physical and legal custody of the applying citizen parent, pursuant to a lawful admission;

(3) Comply with other requirements for naturalization as provided in the Act....

An alien may acquire citizenship only upon strict compliance with the requirements that Congress has established by statute. *INS v. Pangilinan*, 486 U.S. 876, 884 (1988).

8 C.F.R. 341.2(c) provides that the burden of proof shall be on the claimant to establish the claimed citizenship by a preponderance of

the evidence. The applicant is now over the age of 18 years and has failed to meet the age requirements of section 322 of the Act. Therefore, the appeal will be dismissed. This decision is without prejudice to the applicant's seeking U.S. citizenship through normal naturalization procedures.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.