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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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



FILE: [Redacted]

Office: Houston

Date:

MAR 16 2001

IN RE: Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Certificate of Citizenship under § 341(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1452(a)

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



Public Copy

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

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, Acting Director
Administrative Appeals Office

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

The record reflects that the applicant was born on August 6, 1966 in Mexico. The applicant's father, [REDACTED], was born in Mexico in June 1939 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in January 1996. The applicant's mother, [REDACTED], was born in September 1946 in the United States. The applicant's parents married each other on March 2, 1962. The applicant claims that she acquired U.S. citizenship at birth under § 301(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1401(g).

The district director determined the record failed to establish that the applicant's United States citizen parent had been physically present in the United States or one of its outlying possessions for 10 years, at least 5 of which were after age 14, as required under § 301(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1401(g), at the time of the applicant's birth.

On appeal, counsel states on December 6, 1999 that the Service gave the applicant insufficient time to submit the required documentation. No additional documentation has been submitted for the record, therefore a decision will be entered based on the present record.

Montana v. Kennedy, 278 F.2d 68, affd. 366 U.S. 308 (1961), held that to determine whether a person acquired U.S. citizenship at birth abroad, resort must be had to the statute in effect at the time of birth.

Section 301(g) of the Act in effect prior to November 14, 1986 provides, in pertinent part, that a person born outside the geographical limits of the United States and its outlying possessions of parents one of whom is an alien, and the other a citizen of the United States who, prior to the birth of such person, was physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than 10 years, at least 5 of which were after attaining the age 14 years, shall be nationals and citizens of the United States at birth.

The record establishes that the applicant was lawfully admitted for permanent residence on August 20, 1973. Although the Associate Commissioner does not have the applicant's immigrant visa file for review, it can be presumed that the American Consulate meticulously reviewed the applicant's immigrant visa petition and visa application in 1973 to determine whether she was a United States citizen because U.S. citizens do not need visas to enter the United States.

Other than dates provided on the application that the applicant's mother was physically present in the United States between September 1946 and March 1963, May 1963 and November 1964, and

January 1965 and August 1966, the record is devoid of probative documentary evidence to support those assertions regarding her mother's physical presence in the United States.

Absent such supportive evidence, the applicant has not shown that she acquired United States citizenship at birth because she has failed to establish that her mother was physically present in the United States for the required period prior to the applicant's birth.

8 C.F.R. 341.2(c) states that the burden of proof shall be on the claimant to establish the claimed citizenship by a preponderance of the evidence. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.