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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OFFICE
425 Eye Street N.W.
BCIS, AAO, 20 Mass, 3/F
Washington, D.C. 20536



FILE

Office: Pittsburgh (PHI)

Date:

JUN 10 2003

IN RE: Applicant:

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

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision 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.

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 that 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 Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (Bureau) 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 that originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.7.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Acting District Director, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record reflects that the applicant was born on April 27, 1973, in Albania. The applicant's father, [REDACTED] was born in Albania in 1944 and never had a claim to United States citizenship. The applicant's mother, [REDACTED] was born in Albania in 1950 and acquired U.S. citizenship at birth from her mother who was born in the United States in 1924. The applicant's parents married each other on April 27, 1970. The applicant was lawfully admitted for permanent residence on March 28, 2000. The applicant claims that she acquired United States citizenship at birth under section 301(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1401(g).

The acting district director determined that the record failed to establish that at the time of the applicant's birth, 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 section 301(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1401(g).

On appeal, the applicant states that her mother was not allowed to leave Albania prior to the applicant's birth due to the Communist Government. The applicant states that there was no U.S. Embassy in Albania where her mother could seek help during the years of Communist rule.

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.

There is no provision in the Act to waive the physical presence requirements due to the circumstances stated above. 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.

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



The applicant has not met this burden of establishing her mother had been physically present in the United States a total of 10 years, 5 of which were after the age 14. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.