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

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FILE:



Office: NEW YORK, NY

Date: **MAY 22 2008**

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document under Section 338
of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1149.

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, New York, New York. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native of Nigeria and a naturalized citizen of the United States. He seeks to have his Certificate of Naturalization corrected under section 338 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1449, to reflect a change in his date of birth from July 1, 1958 to August 21, 1964.

The District Director reviewed the applicant's record and determined that a correction of his Certificate of Naturalization was not justified. In her decision, the District Director noted that the applicant had claimed the stated date of birth at the time of naturalization. The application was denied accordingly.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that his Certificate of Naturalization contains an erroneous date of birth. The applicant submits a sworn statement, a birth certificate and a hospital outpatient card stating his date of birth as August 21, 1964. The record also contains a declaration of age, a copy of the applicant's Nigerian passport with an amended date of birth, and a sworn statement from the applicant's mother stating his date of birth as August 21, 1964.

Section 338 of the Act provides the statutory authority relating to the contents of a Certificate of Naturalization. In addition, the specific regulations regarding the execution and issuance of Certificates of Naturalization are contained in 8 C.F.R. § 338.5, and provide, in part, that:

- (a) Whenever a Certificate of Naturalization has been delivered which does not conform to the facts shown on the application for naturalization, or a clerical error was made in preparing the certificate, an application for issuance of a corrected certificate, Form N-565, without fee, may be filed by the naturalized person.

....

- (e) The correction will not be deemed to be justified where the naturalized person later alleges that the name or date of birth which the applicant stated to be his or her correct name or date of birth at the time of naturalization was not in fact his or her own name or date of birth at the time of naturalization.

Based on the evidence contained in the record, the applicant has not established that his Certificate of Naturalization contains Immigration and Naturalization Service (now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS)) related clerical errors, and the AAO finds that that the information on the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization conforms to the facts as set forth in his application for that document, the Form N-400. Although in a December 5, 2005 statement, the applicant claims that he applied for naturalization with the correct date of birth, the record indicates that, at the time of his naturalization interview, the applicant changed the date of birth listed in the Form N-400 from August 21, 1964 to July 1, 1958. The AAO observes that the applicant also submitted other forms to CIS with the July 1, 1958 date of birth, which include a Form I-751, Petition to Remove the Conditions on Residency; a Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status; United States Immigration and Naturalization Service Status Inquiries; a Form I-693, Medical Examination of Aliens Seeking Adjustment of Status; a Form G-325A, Biographic Information Sheet; a Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative; a fingerprint form; a Form I-765, Application for

Employment Authorization; and a Form I-589, Request for Asylum in the United States. The record also contains a Form N-445, Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony; a Form 649, Certificate Preparation Sheet and Oath Declaration Permanent Resident Card; marriage certificates; a New York Driver's License; a MetLife insurance policy; a Vytra Health Plans Card; a statement from the Federal Medical Centre, Nigeria, dated June 11, 1997; sworn statements from the applicant's mother; statements from friends; and an unamended copy of the applicant's Nigerian passport listing the applicant's date of birth as July 1, 1958. Accordingly, the District Director correctly found that there are no provisions under 8 C.F.R. § 338.5 to justify or to allow for a CIS correction to the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization.

Because there are no clerical errors in the present matter, CIS has no statutory authority to make any corrections to the applicant's certificate of citizenship, and only a federal court with jurisdiction over the applicant's naturalization proceedings has the authority to order that an amendment be made to the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization, after a hearing in which the Government is provided an opportunity to present its position on the matter. Such a hearing ensues pursuant to a motion to the court for an Order Amending a Certificate of Naturalization. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 334.16(b). *See also, Chan v. Immigration and Naturalization Service*, 426 F. Supp. 680 (1976) and *Varghai v. Immigration and Naturalization Service*, 932 F. Supp. 1245 (1996).

8 C.F.R. § 334.16(b) states in pertinent part that:

[W]henver an application is made to the court to amend a petition for naturalization after final action thereon has been taken by the court, a copy of the application shall be served upon the district director having administrative jurisdiction over the territory in which the court is located, in the manner and within the time provided by the rules of court in which the application is made. No objection shall be made to the amendment of a petition for naturalization after the petitioner for naturalization has been admitted to citizenship if the motion or application is to correct a clerical error arising from oversight or omission. A representative of the Service [CIS] may appear at the hearing upon such application and be heard in favor of or in opposition thereto. When the court orders the petition amended, the clerk of court shall transmit a copy of the order to the district director for inclusion in the Service file.

Based on the reasoning set forth above, the appeal will be dismissed without prejudice to the applicant's submitting a request to a U.S. Federal Court in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.