



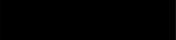
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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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



FILE: 

Office: Harlingen

Date:

MAR 27 2001

IN RE: Obligor:
Bonded Alien:



IMMIGRATION BOND: Bond Conditioned for the Delivery of an Alien under § 103 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1103

IN BEHALF OF OBLIGOR:



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, Acting Director
Administrative Appeals Office

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

DISCUSSION: The delivery bond in this matter was declared breached by the District Director, Harlingen, Texas, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The record indicates that on April 6, 2000 the obligor posted a \$2,000 bond conditioned for the delivery of the above referenced alien. A Notice to Deliver Alien (Form I-340) dated November 28, 2000 was sent to the obligor via certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice demanded the bonded alien's surrender into the custody of an officer of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (the Service) for removal at 10:00 a.m. on November 28, 2000 at PISPC, Route 3, Box 341, Los Fresnos, TX 78566. The obligor failed to present the alien, and the alien failed to appear as required. On December 7, 2000, the district director informed the obligor that the delivery bond had been breached.

On appeal, counsel asserts that the district director erred in breaching the bond because: (1) he did not notify the obligor of all hearings in the alien's case, and (2) he sent the alien notice to appear for removal (Form I-166), contrary to Service regulations.

On appeal, counsel requests an additional 60 days in which to file a written brief after the receipt of the alien's file pursuant to the filing of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request and states that the facts of the case, and the law applicable thereto, are complicated.

It should be noted that the facts present in the case at hand are similar not only to numerous cases already presented to the Associate Commissioner by the obligor on previous appeals but to a myriad of similar cases adjudicated by the Associate Commissioner since the inception of the Office of Administrative Appeals in 1983. Therefore, the request is denied.

It should be noted that the present record contains evidence that a properly completed questionnaire with the alien's photograph attached was forwarded to the obligor with the notice to surrender pursuant to the Amwest/Reno Settlement Agreement, entered into on June 22, 1995 by the Service and Far West Surety Insurance Company.

Delivery bonds are violated if the obligor fails to cause the bonded alien to be produced or to produce himself/herself to an immigration officer or immigration judge upon each and every written request until removal proceedings are finally terminated, or until the alien is actually accepted by the immigration officer for detention or removal. Matter of Smith, 16 I&N Dec. 146 (Reg. Comm. 1977).

Although the obligor failed to produce the alien as required by the surrender demand, counsel stated on appeal that all the conditions imposed by the terms of the bond were substantially performed by

the obligor. The regulations provide that an obligor shall be released from liability where there has been "substantial performance" of all conditions imposed by the terms of the bond. 8 C.F.R. 103.6(c)(3). A bond is breached when there has been a substantial violation of the stipulated conditions of the bond. 8 C.F.R. 103.6(e).

8 C.F.R. 103.5a(a)(2) provides that personal service may be effected by any of the following:

- (i) Delivery of a copy personally;
- (ii) Delivery of a copy at a person's dwelling house or usual place of abode by leaving it with some person of suitable age and discretion;
- (iii) Delivery of a copy at the office of an attorney or other person including a corporation, by leaving it with a person in charge;
- (iv) Mailing a copy by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to a person at his last known address.

The bond (Form I-352) provides in pertinent part that the obligor "agrees that any notice to him/her in connection with this bond may be accomplished by mail directed to him/her at the above address." In this case, the Form I-352 listed 407 Fannin St., Houston, TX 77002 as the obligor's address.

Contained in the record is a certified mail receipt which indicates that the Notice to Deliver Alien was sent to the obligor at [REDACTED] Houston, TX 77002 on November 28, 2000. This notice demanded that the obligor produce the bonded alien for removal on November 28, 2000. The receipt also indicates the obligor received notice to produce the bonded alien on December 1, 2000.

In International Fidelity Ins. Co. v. Crosland, 516 F. Supp. 1249 (1981), the court determined that Service regulations under which personal service includes mailing by certified mail, return receipt requested, in which case three days are added to the prescribed period of notice, and service is "complete upon mailing," a notice mailed seven days before the alien was to be produced fulfilled any requirement of 72 hours' advance notice even if the surety did not receive the letter until one day before it was required to produce the alien.

8 C.F.R. 103.5b(b) provides that whenever a person has the right or is required to do some act within a prescribed period after the service of a notice upon him and the notice is served by mail, 3 days shall be added to the prescribed period.



In this matter the notice was mailed on the same day as the surrender date and was received three days later by the obligor. It was impossible for the obligor to comply with the demand. Consequently, the record clearly establishes that the notice was improperly served on the obligor and was not in compliance with 8 C.F.R. 103.5a(a)(2)(iv).

The appeal will be sustained. The district director's decision declaring the bond breached will be rescinded and the bond will be continued in full force and effect.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained. The district director's decision declaring the bond breached is rescinded and the bond is continued in full force and effect.