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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:

Office: El Paso

Date: 15 APR 2002

IN RE: Obligor:

Bonded Alien:

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

IN BEHALF OF OBLIGOR: 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 delivery bond in this matter was declared breached by the District Director, El Paso, Texas and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record indicates that on May 25, 2001, the obligor posted a \$3,000 bond conditioned for the delivery of the above referenced alien. A Notice to Deliver Alien (Form I-340) dated July 19, 2001, was sent to the obligor via certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice demanded the bonded alien's surrender to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (the Service) for removal at 9:00 a.m. on August 6, 2001, at 1545 Hawkins Blvd, 1st Floor, El Paso, TX. The obligor failed to present the alien, and the alien failed to appear as required. On October 23, 2001, the district director informed the obligor that the delivery bond had been breached.

On appeal, the obligor asserts that on July 30, 2001, he informed the Service that the alien had departed the United States on or about June 18, 2001. The obligor states he provided the requested airline ticket as well as a letter from the alien informing the Service of the difficulty he was having in verifying his presence with the Consulate in Canada.

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, as specified in the appearance notice, upon each and every written request until removal proceedings are finally terminated, or until the said alien is actually accepted by the Service for detention or removal. Matter of Smith, 16 I&N Dec. 146 (Reg. Comm. 1977).

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 105 N. Florence, El Paso, TX 79901 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 105 N. Florence, El Paso, TX 79901 on July 19, 2001. This notice demanded that the obligor produce the bonded alien for removal on August 6, 2001. The receipt also indicates that the obligor received notice to produce the bonded alien on July 21, 2001. Consequently, the record clearly establishes that the notice was properly served on the obligor in compliance with 8 C.F.R. 103.5a(a)(2)(iv).

It must be noted that delivery bonds are exacted to insure that aliens will be produced when and where required by the Service for hearings or removal. Such bonds are necessary in order for the Service to function in an orderly manner. The courts have long considered the confusion which would result if aliens could be surrendered at any time or place it suited their or the surety's convenience. Matter of L-, 3 I&N Dec. 862 (C.O. 1950).

The Service has held that an alien who departs from the United States prior to the date demanded for surrender may be in substantial compliance with the terms of his delivery bond. Matter of Don Donaldson's Key Bail Service, 13 I&N Dec. 563 (Acting Reg. Comm. 1969). However, the burden is upon the alien or his surety to prove by probative evidence that the alien did leave the country prior to his surrender date. Matter of Peerless Insurance Company, 15 I&N Dec. 133 (Reg. Comm. 1974).

A physical verification of departure by an immigration officer at the port of departure, or a verification of the alien's presence in the foreign destination by a United States consular officer or immigration officer abroad, is required to verify departure.

The Service will accept a document signed by an embassy official, consular officer, or Service officer abroad, and bearing an appropriate seal or other indicia of reliability as proof that a voluntary departure or self-removal has occurred. The district director retains the discretion to accept other documents of voluntary departure. The original of such document[s] may be delivered [either] by the surety or through diplomatic channels. Copies of such documents will be accepted only if received through diplomatic channels.

The obligor asserts, on appeal, that the bonded alien has departed from the United States. However, this assertion is unsupported by the required evidentiary documentation. In addition, the record does not contain a Notification of Departure-Bond Case (Form I-392) properly executed by a United States Embassy official, consular officer or immigration officer abroad and received through official channels indicating the bonded alien's departure from the United States prior to his surrender date.

On July 19, 2001, and November 13, 2001, a letter was sent to the bonded alien's address in Canada which informed him that the Service required official verification of his departure from the United States. The alien was requested to take the attached Form G-146 to the American Embassy nearest to his home and make an appointment with either a Consulate Officer or an Officer of this Service for verification of his presence in the Canada. To date, no official documentation has been presented to the Service.

After a careful review of the record, it is concluded that the conditions of the bond have been substantially violated, and the collateral has been forfeited. The decision of the district director will not be disturbed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.