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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



JUL 17 2003

FILE:

Office: San Antonio

Date:

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:



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 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 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 delivery bond in this matter was declared breached by the District Director, San Antonio, Texas, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record indicates that on April 3, 2002, the obligor posted a \$7,500 bond conditioned for the delivery of the above referenced alien. A Notice to Deliver Alien (Form I-340) dated August 22, 2002, was sent to the co-obligor via certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice demanded the bonded alien's surrender to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), at 10:00 a.m. on September 12, 2002, at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The obligor failed to present the alien, and the alien failed to appear as required. On September 18, 2002, the district director informed the co-obligor that the delivery bond had been breached.

On appeal, counsel asserts that the director failed to provide the obligor with a properly completed questionnaire as the criminal background/detention and the miscellaneous issues sections were not filled out. Counsel argues that the failure to complete all sections of the questionnaire invalidates the bond breach, because it does not comply with the Settlement Agreement.

It is 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.

The Settlement Agreement, Exhibit F, provides that "a questionnaire prepared by the surety with approval of INS [now BICE] will be completed by [BICE] whenever a demand to produce a bonded alien is to be delivered to the surety. The completed questionnaire will be certified correct by an officer of the [BICE] delivered to the surety with the demand." The BICE is in compliance with the Settlement Agreement when the questionnaire form is provided to the obligor with the alien's identifying information, such as his or her name, alien number and if available, a photograph. The Settlement Agreement does not require each section to be filled out by the certifying officer. Counsel has not alleged or established any prejudice resulting from the BICE's failure to complete each section. More importantly, failure to complete each section of the questionnaire does not invalidate the bond breach.

Counsel indicates that:

I am attaching a questionnaire brief, which is a history of the I-340 questionnaire and the requirements under *Amwest I*, *Amwest II*, and many [BICE] memorandums, wires and training materials dedicated to this particular issue. They make it clear that each District must attach a properly completed (and signed) questionnaire to each I-340 at the time they send it to the surety.

Improperly completed questionnaires, or those that do not provide answers to all sections (including a negative one) do not satisfy the Amwest Settlements' requirements.

Counsel, however, fails to submit the BICE memoranda, wires and training materials to support his arguments. The assertions of counsel do not constitute evidence. *Matter of Laureano*, 19 I&N Dec. 1, 3 (BIA 1983); *Matter of Obaigbena*, 19 I&N Dec. 533, 534 (BIA 1988); *Matter of Ramirez-Sanchez*, 17 I&N Dec. 503, 506 (BIA 1980).

Training materials are not binding on the BICE. Memoranda issued by the Office of General Counsel are advisory in nature. 8 C.F.R. § 100.2(1). Internal memoranda routinely issued by the BICE to guide the field offices in implementing the Settlement Agreement do not have the force of law.

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 BICE 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."

The evidence of record indicates that the Notice to Deliver Alien was sent to the co-obligor at [REDACTED] on August 22, 2002 via certified mail. This notice demanded that the obligor produce the bonded alien on September 12, 2002. The domestic return receipt indicates the co-obligor received notice to produce the bonded alien on September 3, 2002. 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 is clear from the language used in the bond agreement that the obligor shall cause the alien to be produced or the alien shall produce himself to a BICE officer upon each and every request of such officer until removal proceedings are either finally terminated or the alien is accepted by the BICE for detention or removal.

It must be noted that delivery bonds are exacted to insure that aliens will be produced when and where required by the BICE for hearings or removal. Such bonds are necessary in order for the BICE 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 the alien's or the surety's convenience. *Matter of L-*, 3 I&N Dec. 862 (C.O. 1950).

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.