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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. A3042
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

[Redacted]

FILE:

[Redacted]

Office: PHOENIX

Date:

DEC 02 2004

IN RE:

Obligor:

Bonded Alien

[Redacted]

IMMIGRATION BOND:

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

ON BEHALF OF OBLIGOR:

[Redacted]

PUBLIC COPY

identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

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

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The delivery bond in this matter was declared breached by the Field Office Director, Detention and Removal, Phoenix, Arizona, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record indicates that on January 15, 2002, the obligor posted an \$8,000 bond conditioned for the delivery of the above referenced alien. A Notice to Deliver Alien (Form I-340) dated May 6, 2003, 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 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at 9:00 a.m. on May 28, 2003, at [REDACTED]. The obligor failed to present the alien, and the alien failed to appear as required. On July 21, 2003, the field office director informed the obligor that the delivery bond had been breached.

On appeal, counsel asserts that ICE attached a questionnaire to the Form I-340, but did not provide the required information as required by the Amwest/Reno Settlement Agreement entered into on June 22, 1995 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (legacy INS) and Far West Surety Insurance Company.¹

Counsel indicates:

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 INS [now ICE] 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 fails to submit the ICE 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). Further, training materials written by the INS office of General Counsel, now Office of the Principal Legal Adviser (OPLA), are not binding on ICE.

The Settlement Agreement, Exhibit F, provides that "a questionnaire prepared by the surety with approval of the INS [now ICE] will be completed by the [ICE] 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 [ICE] delivered to the surety with the demand."

ICE is in substantial compliance with the Settlement Agreement when the questionnaire provides the obligor with sufficient identifying information to assist in expeditiously locating the alien, and does not mislead the obligor. Each case must be considered on its own merits. Failure to include a photograph, for example, which is not absolutely required under the terms of the Agreement, does not have the same impact as an improper alien number or wrong name. The AAO must look at the totality of the circumstances to determine whether the obligor has been prejudiced by ICE's failure to fill in all of the blanks.

¹ Capital Bonding Corporation executed a settlement agreement with the legacy INS on February 21, 2003, in which it agreed not to raise certain arguments on appeals of bond breaches. The AAO will adjudicate the appeal notwithstanding Capital Bonding Corporation's failure to comply with the settlement agreement in this case.

Counsel has not alleged or established any prejudice resulting from ICE's failure to complete each section of the questionnaire. More importantly, failure to complete each section does not invalidate the bond breach.

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 ICE 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.

On appeal, counsel asserts that the Form I-352 required all notices to be sent to both the obligor and co-obligor, but the Form I-340 was sent only to the obligor. Counsel states that the obligor received the Form I-340 on May 12, 2003 and mailed it to the co-obligor who received it on May 22, 2003. Counsel argues that the notice, with a surrender date of May 28, 2003, was untimely and that service of the Form I-340 within 10 days of the surrender date constitutes unreasonable notice.

The evidence of record indicates that the Notice to Deliver Alien dated May 6, 2003 was sent to the obligor at [REDACTED] May 9, 2003 via certified mail. This notice demanded that the obligor produce the bonded alien on May 28, 2003. The domestic return receipt indicates the obligor received notice to produce the bonded alien on May 15, 2003. 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).

Counsel's argument that the Form I-352 required all notices to be sent to both the obligor and co-obligor is without merit as the Form I-352 in this case requires notices to be only sent to the obligor.

The Form I-352 provides that the obligor and co-obligor are jointly and severally liable for the obligations imposed by the bond contract. As such, ICE may pursue a breach of bond against one or both of the contracting parties. It is not obligated to take action against any specific contracting party. *See Restatement (Third) of Suretyship and Guaranty* § 50 (1996). 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).

Counsel's argument that the obligor received fewer than 10 days notice to surrender the alien is also without merit, as the obligor received two weeks notice. Further counsel fails to explain how he arrived at 10 days as being reasonable notice. ICE regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 243.3, in effect until the regulation was removed on March 6, 1997, provided for notice to an alien of his or her final order of removal three days prior to the removal of the alien. That regulation is no longer in effect. Even if that regulation still existed, the demand notice is notice to the obligor, not notice to the alien. In *International Fidelity Ins. Co. v. Crosland*, 516 F. Supp. 1249 (S.D.N.Y. 1981), the court determined that sufficient notice was given even if the surety did not receive the demand notice until one day before it was required to produce the alien.

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 an ICE officer upon each and every request of such officer until removal proceedings are either finally terminated or the alien is accepted by ICE 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 ICE for hearings or removal. Such bonds are necessary in order for ICE 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 field office director will not be disturbed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.