



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

[REDACTED]

FILE: [REDACTED]

Office: PHILADELPHIA

Date:

DEC 07 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**

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.

*Mari Johnson*

Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy**

*GI*

**DISCUSSION:** The delivery bond in this matter was declared breached by the Field Office Director, Detention and Removal, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record indicates that on June 21, 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 25, 2003, was sent to the co-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 September 9, 2003, at [REDACTED]. The obligor failed to present the alien, and the alien failed to appear as required. On September 10, 2003, the field office director informed the co-obligor that the delivery bond had been breached.

On appeal, counsel asserts that according to the EOIR hotline, the alien's case is still pending with the immigration court. Counsel argues that nonetheless the director demanded the alien surrender for an interview on September 9, 2003. Counsel claims that although ICE has a contractual right under the delivery bond to make such a demand, it is a flagrant abuse of that right and nothing more than a blatant tactic to effect a breach.

The record reflects that a removal hearing was held on September 30, 2003 and the alien was ordered removed in absentia.

The obligor is not relieved of its responsibility to deliver the bonded alien for an interview at the time and place specified in the field office director's demand notice as said director may call the alien in for an interview at any time prior to removal. Further, bond proceedings are separate and distinct from deportation proceedings. Deportation proceedings are between the United States government and an alien with a questionable right to remain in the United States. A delivery bond is a contract between ICE and the obligor, where in consideration for obtaining the alien's release from custody, the obligor agrees to produce the alien on demand until the obligation to do so terminates under grounds specified in the contract.

On appeal, counsel states that ICE failed to provide the obligor with a properly completed questionnaire as ICE did not include a photograph of the alien or indicate that one was unavailable. Counsel argues that the failure to include a photograph or to state that one was unavailable constitutes an incomplete questionnaire that invalidates the bond breach because it does not comply with 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<sup>1</sup>

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 and a picture of the alien (if available) to each I-340 at the time they send it to the surety.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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, 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, or to attach a photograph if one is available. A strict reading of the word "complete" as urged by counsel sets standards that are contained in neither of the Agreements styled *Amwest I* and *Amwest II*.

Counsel has not alleged or established any prejudice resulting from ICE's failure to attached a photograph, or more particularly, to state that one is unavailable. More importantly, a lack of a photograph 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.

The evidence of record indicates that the Notice to Deliver Alien dated August 25, 2003 was sent to the obligor via certified mail. This notice demanded that the obligor produce the bonded alien on September 9, 2003. The domestic return receipt shows it was received by a representative of Capital Bonding Corporation and was subsequently received by ICE. 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 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.