



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

411

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



File:



Office: BOSTON, MA

Date:

FEB 2 2001

IN RE: Applicant:



Application:

Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under
Section 212(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8
U.S.C. 1182(i)

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



PUBLIC COPY

identification data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

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

Mary C. Mulrean, Acting Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The waiver application was denied by the District Director, Boston, Massachusetts, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Nigeria who was found to be inadmissible to the United States under § 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)(C)(i), for having procured admission into the United States by fraud or willful misrepresentation in 1992. The applicant married a United States citizen in 1996 and is the beneficiary of an approved petition for alien relative. He seeks the above waiver in order to remain in the United States and reside with his wife.

The district director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish that extreme hardship would be imposed upon a qualifying relative and denied the application accordingly.

On appeal, counsel argues that the Service erred in failing to find that the applicant's spouse would suffer extreme hardship if her husband were removed from the United States and did not consider the favorable factors in the aggregate when the decision was made.

The record reflects that the applicant procured admission into the United States by fraud or willful misrepresentation in 1991 by presenting himself as a Canadian citizen.

Section 212(a) CLASSES OF ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS OR ADMISSION.-Except as otherwise provided in this Act, aliens who are inadmissible under the following paragraphs are ineligible to receive visas and ineligible to be admitted to the United States:

(6) ILLEGAL ENTRANTS AND IMMIGRATION VIOLATORS.-

(C) MISREPRESENTATION.-

(i) IN GENERAL.-Any alien who, by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact, seeks to procure (or has sought to procure or has procured) a visa, other documentation, or admission into the United States or other benefit provided under this Act is inadmissible.

Section 212(i) ADMISSION OF IMMIGRANT INADMISSIBLE FOR FRAUD OR WILLFUL MISREPRESENTATION OF MATERIAL FACT.-

(1) The Attorney General may, in the discretion of the Attorney General, waive the application of clause (i) of subsection (a)(6)(C) in the case of an alien who is the spouse, son or daughter of a United States citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the refusal of admission to the United

States of such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such an alien.

(2) No court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision or action of the Attorney General regarding a waiver under paragraph (1).

Section 212(i) of the Act provides that a waiver of the bar to admission resulting from § 212(a)(6)(C) of the Act is dependent first upon a showing that the bar imposes an extreme hardship on a qualifying family member. Although extreme hardship is a requirement for § 212(i) relief, once established, it is but one favorable discretionary factor to be considered. See Matter of Mendez-Morales, 21 I&N Dec. 296 (BIA 1996).

The Board has held that extreme hardship is not a definable term of fixed and inflexible meaning, and that the elements to establish extreme hardship are dependent upon the facts and circumstances of each case. These factors should be viewed in light of the Board's statement that a restrictive view of extreme hardship is not mandated either by the Supreme Court or by its own case law. See Matter of L-O-G-, 21 I&N Dec. 413 (BIA 1996).

In Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez, Interim Decision 3380 (BIA 1999), the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) stipulated that the factors deemed relevant in determining whether an alien has established extreme hardship pursuant to § 212(i) of the Act include, but are not limited to, the following: the presence of a lawful permanent resident or United States citizen spouse or parent in this country; the qualifying relative's family ties outside the United States; the conditions in the country or countries to which the qualifying relative would relocate and the extent of the qualifying relative's ties in such countries; the financial impact of departure from this country; and finally, significant conditions of health, particularly when tied to an unavailability of suitable medical care in the country to which the qualifying relative would relocate.

The record reflects that the applicant has established the presence of a qualifying relationship; that his wife has no family or other ties in Nigeria; that it would be financially detrimental for his wife to quit her career employment with the state government, sell her home and relocate to Nigeria with her two children from prior marriages; that his wife suffers from several debilitating medical conditions for which she is undergoing treatment; and that country conditions in Nigeria would be of financial, social, and medical detriment to his spouse. Based on the foregoing, it is concluded that the applicant has shown that his U.S. citizen wife would suffer extreme hardship in the event his waiver application is denied.



The grant or denial of the above waiver does not turn only on the issue of the meaning of "extreme hardship." It also hinges on the discretion of the Attorney General and pursuant to such terms, conditions, and procedures as she may by regulations prescribe.

The unfavorable factor in this matter is the applicant's procuring entry by fraud or willful misrepresentation in 1991. The favorable factors include the existence of an approved petition for alien relative, the absence of a criminal record, and the extreme hardship to the applicant's United States citizen spouse.

A review of the documentation in the record, when considered in its totality, sufficiently establishes the existence of hardship caused by separation and prospective social, medical and financial hardship that reaches the level of extreme as envisioned by Congress if the applicant is not allowed to remain in the United States. It is concluded that the applicant has established the qualifying degree of hardship in this matter and warrants the favorable exercise of the Attorney General's discretion.

In proceedings for application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility under § 212(h), the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. Matter of Ngai, 19 I&N Dec. 245 (Comm. 1984). Here, the applicant has met that burden. Accordingly, the decision of the acting district director will be withdrawn, and the waiver application will be approved.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained.