

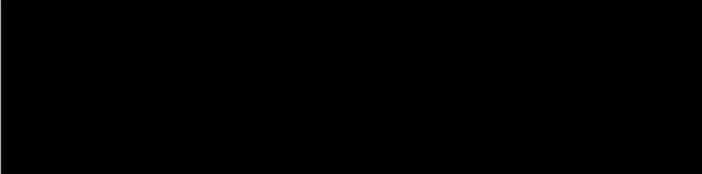
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FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: DEC 01 2006

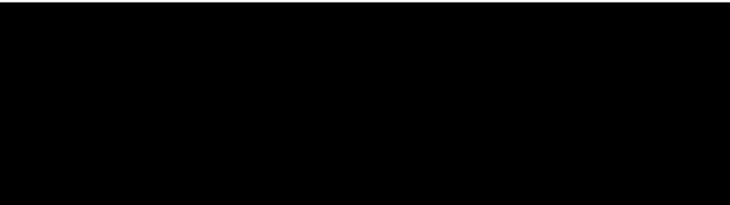
IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION: Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States after Deportation or Removal under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States after Deportation or Removal (Form I-212) was denied by the Director, California Service Center and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Mexico who, on November 3, 1998, at the San Ysidro, California, Port of Entry, orally represented himself to be a citizen of the United States in order to gain admission into the United States. The applicant was found to be inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(ii), as an alien who falsely represents himself to be a citizen of the United States for any purpose or benefit under the Act, and section 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182 (a)(7)(A)(i)(I), for being an immigrant not in possession of a valid immigrant visa or other valid entry document. Consequently, on November 4, 1998, the applicant was expeditiously removed from the United States pursuant to section 235(b)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1). The record reflects that the applicant reentered the United States shortly after his removal, without a lawful admission or parole and without permission to reapply for admission, in violation of section 276 the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1326 (a felony). The applicant is the beneficiary of an approved Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130) filed by his U.S. citizen spouse. The applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(A)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(i). He seeks permission to reapply for admission into the United States under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii), in order to remain in the United States and reside with his U.S. citizen spouse and children.

The Director determined that section 241(a)(5) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1231(a)(5) applies in this matter and the applicant is not eligible to apply for any relief under the Act. In addition, the Director determined that the applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B), for having been unlawfully present in the United States for a period of one year or more. The Director denied the Form I-212 accordingly. *See Director's Decision* dated December 16, 2005.

The proceeding in the present case is for an application for permission to reapply for admission into the United States after deportation or removal and, therefore, the AAO will not discuss the applicant's potential grounds of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Act. This proceeding is limited to the issue of whether or not the applicant meets the requirements necessary for the ground of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(A)(i) of the Act to be waived.

Section 241(a) of the Act states in pertinent part:

(5) reinstatement of removal orders against aliens illegally reentering.- if the Attorney General finds that an alien has reentered the United States illegally after having been removed or having departed voluntarily, under an order of removal, the prior order of removal is reinstated from its original date and is not subject to being reopened or reviewed, the alien is not eligible and may not apply for any relief under this Act, and the alien shall be removed under the prior order at any time after the reentry.

On appeal, counsel submits a brief in which he states that because the applicant filed the Form I-212 before the Service reinstated his removal order under section 241(a)(5) of the Act, the Director failed to apply the proper factors of consideration required by *Matter of Tin*, 14 I&N Dec. 371 (Reg. Comm. 1973) in matters of

discretion. Counsel refers to the decision in *Perez-Gonzalez v. Ashcroft*, 379 F.3d 783 (9th Cir. 2004). Counsel states that based on *Perez-Gonzalez*, an individual who was removed and reentered without inspection is eligible to file a Form I-212, and have it adjudicated, as long as he filed the Form I-212 before his removal order was reinstated. In addition, counsel states that the applicant is eligible to adjust status pursuant to section 245(i) of the Act, as an individual who is physically present in the United States after entering without inspection, is the beneficiary of a Form I-130 filed before April 30, 2001, and has paid a \$1,000 fine. Additionally, counsel alleges that nothing in the statutory provisions regarding adjustment of status suggest that previously removed aliens are barred from 245(i) relief. *Perez-Gonzalez* at 27. Finally, counsel states that the Director improperly deemed the applicant ineligible for the waiver and should have considered the extreme hardship to his U.S. citizen spouse and children, and requests that the decision be overturned.

In its August 14, 2004, decision, *Perez-Gonzalez v. Ashcroft*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a Mexican national who returned to the United States following a deportation and had his deportation order reinstated may nonetheless obtain adjustment of status if his Form I-212 is granted. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals stated in *Perez-Gonzalez* that: "Given the fact that Perez-Gonzalez applied for the waiver *before* his deportation order was reinstated, he was not yet subject to its terms and, therefore, was not barred from applying for relief." The Court further stated: "Prior administrative decisions of the Bureau of Immigration Appeals confirm the fact that permission to reapply is available on a *nunc pro tunc* basis, in which the petitioner receives permission to reapply for admission after he or she has already reentered the country." Finally the Court stated: "... if the alien has applied for permission to reapply in the context of an application to adjust status, the INS is required to consider whether to exercise its discretion in the alien's favor before it can proceed with reinstatement proceedings..."

The record of proceedings does not reveal that the applicant's prior removal order was reinstated at the time he filed the Form I-212. Since this case arises in the Ninth Circuit, *Perez-Gonzalez* is controlling. The AAO finds that the Director erred in denying the Form I-212 based on the fact that section 241(a)(5) of the Act is applicable in this case. The applicant is not currently subject to section 241(a)(5) of the Act and he is eligible to file a Form I-212.

The AAO finds that although the applicant is not subject to section 241(a)(5) of the Act, he is clearly inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(A) of the Act and, therefore, must receive permission to reapply for admission.

As noted above, the proceeding in the present case is for a Form I-212 and, therefore, the AAO will not discuss the applicant's possible eligibility for adjustment of status under section 245(i) of the Act. However, the AAO notes that applicants for adjustment of status under section 245(i) of the Act, as with all applicants for adjustment of status, must be admissible to the United States. *Section 245(i)(2)(A) of the Act*. There are exceptions for applicants under 245(i) of the Act, but admissibility under section 212(a)(9)(A) is not one.

Section 212(a)(9)(A) of the Act states in pertinent part:

(A) Certain aliens previously removed.-

(i) Arriving aliens.- Any alien who has been ordered removed under section 235(b)(1) or at the end of proceedings under section 240 initiated upon the alien's arrival in the United States and who again seeks admission within five years of the date of such removal (or within 20 years in the case of a second or subsequent removal or at any time in the case of an alien convicted of an aggravated felony) is inadmissible.

(iii) Exception.- Clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to an alien seeking admission within a period if, prior to the date of the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be admitted from foreign contiguous territory, the Attorney General [now the Secretary of Homeland Security, "Secretary"] has consented to the alien's reapplying for admission.

A review of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) amendments to the Act and prior statutes and case law regarding permission to reapply for admission, reflects that Congress has; (1) increased the bar to admissibility and the waiting period from 5 to 10 years in most instances and to 20 years in others; (2) has added a bar to admissibility for aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States; (3) has imposed a permanent bar to admission for aliens who have been ordered removed and who subsequently enter or attempt to enter the United States without being lawfully admitted. It is concluded that Congress has placed a high priority on deterring aliens from overstaying their authorized period of stay and/or from being present in the United States without a lawful admission or parole.

The AAO conducts the final administrative review and enters the ultimate decision for CIS on all immigration matters that fall within its jurisdiction. The AAO reviews each case *de novo* as to all questions of law, fact, discretion, or any other issue that may arise in an appeal that falls under its jurisdiction. Because the AAO engages in *de novo* review, the AAO may deny an application or petition that fails to comply with the technical requirements of the law, without remand, even if the district or service center director does not identify all of the grounds for denial in the initial decision. See *Spencer Enterprises, Inc. v. United States*, 229 F. Supp. 2d 1025, 1043 (E.D. Cal. 2001), *aff'd*, 345 F.3d 683 (9th Cir. 2003).

Before the AAO can weigh the discretionary factors in this case, it must first determine whether the applicant is eligible to apply for the relief requested. To recapitulate, on November 3, 1998, the applicant represented himself to be a citizen of the United States in order to gain admission into the United States. A false representation of U.S. citizenship may be either an oral representation or one supported by an authentic or fraudulent document. In the present case, the applicant made an oral representation of U.S. citizenship in order to gain admission into the United States. Therefore, the applicant is inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii) of the Act.

Section 212(a)(6)(C) of the Act states in pertinent part:

(ii) Falsely claiming citizenship -

(I) In general- Any alien who falsely represents, or has falsely represented, himself or herself to be a citizen of the United States for any purpose or benefit under this Act (including section 274A) or any other Federal or State law is inadmissible.

(II) Exception- In the case of an alien making a representation described in subclause (I), if each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization), the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16, and the alien reasonably believed at the time of making such representation that he or she was a citizen, the alien shall not be considered to be inadmissible under any provision of this subsection based on such representation.

The applicant in the instant case does not qualify for the exception under section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii)(II) of the Act.

Matter of Martinez-Torres, 10 I&N Dec. 776 (reg. Comm. 1964) held that an application for permission to reapply for admission is denied, in the exercise of discretion, to an alien who is mandatorily inadmissible to the United States under another section of the Act, and no purpose would be served in granting the application.

The applicant is subject to the provisions of section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii) of the Act. No waiver is available to an alien who has made a false claim to United States citizenship. Therefore, no purpose would be served in the favorable exercise of discretion in adjudicating the application to reapply for admission into the United States under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Act. Accordingly, as the applicant is not admissible to the United States, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.