

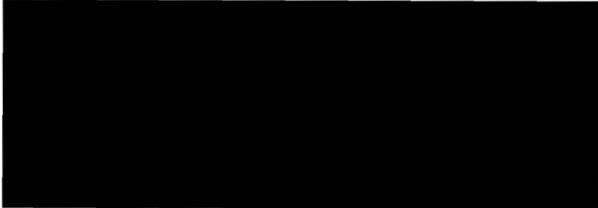


U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

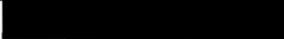
identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy

PHOTOCOPY

L1



FILE:



Office: MISSOURI

Date:

**MAR 31 2008**

MSC 05 349 11752

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION:

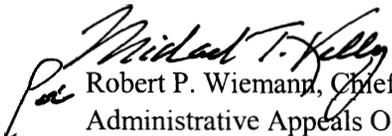
Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 245A of the  
Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. The file has been returned to the office that originally decided your case. If your appeal was sustained, or if your case was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. If your appeal was dismissed, you no longer have a case pending before this office, and you are not entitled to file a motion to reopen or reconsider your case.

  
Robert P. Wiemann, Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application for temporary resident status pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreements reached in *Catholic Social Services, Inc., et al., v. Ridge, et al.*, CIV. NO. S-86-1343-LKK (E.D. Cal) January 23, 2004, and *Felicity Mary Newman, et al., v. United States Immigration and Citizenship Services, et al.*, CIV. NO. 87-4757-WDK (C.D. Cal) February 17, 2004 (CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements), was denied by the Director, Missouri. The decision is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant submitted a Form I-687, Application for Status as a Temporary Resident Under Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), and a Form I-687 Supplement, CSS/Newman Class Membership Worksheet, on September 14, 2005. The applicant did not submit any accompanying evidence demonstrating his entry into the United States in an unlawful status prior to January 1, 1982 or continuous unlawful residence in the United States.

On November 22, 2005, the director issued a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID) the application observing that the applicant had not presented evidence that he had entered the United States prior to January 1, 1982 and had continuously resided in the United States unlawfully until the filing date of the application and had not submitted any evidence that he was continuously present in the United States from November 6, 1986 until the filing date of the application.

In a March 17, 2006 response to the NOID, the applicant noted that he had not thought to retain files demonstrating his presence in the United States since 1981. The applicant also submitted a February 8, 2006 statement from [REDACTED], the Resident Imam of Muhammad Islamic Center of Hartford. [REDACTED] stated that he had known the applicant since 1982 and that the applicant has been and still is an active member in the religious community. The director determined that the information submitted was not sufficient to establish the applicant's presence in the United States prior to January 1, 1982 and continuing for the requisite time periods.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he has been in the United States since June 1981 but does not have any proof of his residency. The applicant requests that he be given a chance to be part of his community.

An applicant for temporary resident status must establish entry into the United States before January 1, 1982, and continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since such date and through the date the application is filed. Section 245A(a)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(2). The applicant must also establish that he or she has been continuously physically present in the United States since November 6, 1986. Section 245A(a)(3) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(3). The regulations clarify that the applicant must have been physically present in the United States from November 6, 1986 until the date of filing the application. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b)(1).

Under the CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements, for purposes of establishing residence and physical presence, in accordance with the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b)(1), "until the date of filing" shall mean until the date the applicant attempted to file a completed Form I-687 application and fee or was caused not to timely file. CSS Settlement Agreement paragraph 11 at page 6; Newman Settlement Agreement paragraph 11 at page 10.

The applicant has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she has resided in the United States for the requisite periods, is admissible to the United States under the provisions of section 245A of the Act, and is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status. The inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility and amenability to verification. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5).

Although the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3) provides an illustrative list of contemporaneous documents that an applicant may submit in support of his or her claim of continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since prior to January 1, 1982, the submission of any other relevant document is permitted pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(vi)(L).

The "preponderance of the evidence" standard requires that the evidence demonstrate that the applicant's claim is "probably true," where the determination of "truth" is made based on the factual circumstances of each individual case. *Matter of E-M-*, 20 I&N Dec. 77, 79-80 (Comm. 1989). In evaluating the evidence, *Matter of E-M-* also stated that "[t]ruth is to be determined not by the quantity of evidence alone but by its quality." *Id.* Thus, in adjudicating the application pursuant to the preponderance of the evidence standard, the director must examine each piece of evidence for relevance, probative value, and credibility, both individually and within the context of the totality of the evidence, to determine whether the fact to be proven is probably true. See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(6). The weight to be given any affidavit depends on the totality of the circumstances, and a number of factors must be considered. More weight will be given to an affidavit in which the affiant indicates personal knowledge of the applicant's whereabouts during the time period in question rather than a fill-in-the-blank affidavit that provides generic information. The credibility of an affidavit may be assessed by taking into account such factors as whether the affiant provided a copy of a recognized identity card, such as a driver's license; whether the affiant provided some proof that he or she was present in the United States during the requisite period; and whether the affiant provided a valid telephone number. The regulations provide specific guidance on the sufficiency of documentation when proving residence through evidence of past employment or attestations by churches or other organizations. 8 C.F.R. §§ 245a.2(d)(3)(i) and (v).

Even if the director has some doubt as to the truth, if the applicant submits relevant, probative, and credible evidence that leads the director to believe that the claim is "probably true" or "more likely than not," the applicant or petitioner has satisfied the standard of proof. See *U.S. v. Cardozo-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421 (1987) (defining "more likely than not" as a greater than 50 percent probability of something occurring). If the director can articulate a material doubt, it is appropriate for the director to either request additional evidence or, if that doubt leads the director to believe that the claim is probably not true, deny the application or petition.

An applicant for temporary residence under the CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements need only establish entry into the United States before January 1, 1982, and continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since such date and have been physically present in the United States from November 6, 1986 until the date of filing the application as defined above.

The issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has furnished sufficient credible evidence to establish his entry into the United States prior to January 1, 1982 and continuous unlawful residence since such date through the date the application was filed. The only evidence in the record regarding the applicant's entry into the United States and continuous unlawful residence is the applicant's statement and the February 8, 2006 affidavit from [REDACTED] the Resident Imam of Muhammad Islamic Center of Hartford. The AAO finds that the February 8, 2006 affidavit is not accompanied by any proof that the affiant was in the United States during the requisite period. The affidavit does not detail the circumstances of the applicant's attendance or involvement in the religious community accompanied by dates and documentation of the applicant's presence. The affidavit does not specify whether the affiant knows the applicant only as part of a religious community.

The absence of sufficiently detailed documentation to corroborate the applicant's claim of entry into the United States prior to January 1, 1982 and continuous unlawful residence for the entire requisite period seriously detracts from the credibility of his claim. The AAO finds that the February 8, 2006 affidavit of Imam Sharief does not provide details of the affiant's relationship with the applicant, such as when and how they met. The affidavit also lacks the essential corroborative details that the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(v) specifies for letters of attestations from religious organizations with regard to proof of an applicant's residence: inclusive dates of the applicant's membership; the applicant's address(es) during membership; establishment of how the author knows the applicant; and establishment of the origin of the information being attested to. Further, the affidavit from [REDACTED] conflicts with item 31 of the applicant's Form I-687, which does not list [REDACTED]'s organization as one to which the applicant belonged. This affidavit and the applicant's own statement comprise the only documentation of the applicant's residence in the United States for the requisite time periods. Given the paucity of supporting documentation, it is concluded that he has failed to meet his burden of proof and failed to establish continuous residence in an unlawful status in the United States for the requisite period as required under both 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5) and *Matter of E- M--*, *supra*. The record lacks any document that might lend credibility to the applicant's claim of entry and residence in the United States for the required time period.

The applicant is, therefore, ineligible for temporary resident status under section 245A of the Act on this basis. The appeal will be dismissed.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed. This decision constitutes a final notice of ineligibility.