



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

✓ 2

[REDACTED]

FILE:

[REDACTED]

Office: Los Angeles

Date: OCT 25 2004

IN RE:

Applicant:

[REDACTED]

PETITION: Application for Status as a Permanent Resident pursuant to Section 1104 of the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-553, 114 Stat. 2762 (2000), amended by LIFE Act Amendments, Pub. L. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763 (2000).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

Self-represented

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. If your appeal was sustained, or if the matter 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, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

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prevent unauthorized  
invasion of personal privacy

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**DISCUSSION:** The application for permanent resident status under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act was denied by the District Director, Los Angeles, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The district director denied the application because the applicant had not demonstrated that he had continuously resided in the United States in an unlawful status from before January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988.

On appeal, the applicant submits a separate statement, in which he reaffirms his claim to have entered the United States on February 3, 1981, and asserts that the district office's decision should be reconsidered as the evidence he has provided should serve to establish his continuous residence in the U.S. since prior to January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988. In addition, the applicant attempts to point out that, given his having to maintain an illegal existence as an undocumented worker since his 1981 entry into the U.S., it has been difficult for him to accumulate and maintain documentation over a twenty-year period.

An applicant for permanent 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 May 4, 1988. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.11(b).

An applicant for permanent resident status under section 1104 of the LIFE Act has the burden to establish 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 and is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status under this section. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.12(e). When something is to be established by a preponderance of evidence it is sufficient that the proof only establish that it is *probably* true. *See Matter of E-- M--*, 20 I&N Dec. 77 (Comm. 1989). Preponderance of the evidence has also been defined as "evidence which as a whole shows that the fact sought to be proved is more probable than not." Black's Law Dictionary 1064 (5<sup>th</sup> ed. 1979).

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.12(e).

In an attempt to establish continuous unlawful residence since before January 1, 1982, as claimed, the applicant furnished the following evidence:

- An affidavit from [REDACTED] attesting to having known the applicant since February 1981. The affiant bases his knowledge on having met the applicant at a friend's house;
- An affidavit from [REDACTED] owner of Universal Transmission, Inglewood, California, attesting to having employed the applicant from February 1981 to November 1990 [the affidavit includes a photocopy of the affiant's business card in the upper left-hand corner];
- Photocopies of customer receipts made out to the applicant from [REDACTED] Inglewood, California, for various parts and labor. The receipts are dated February 20, 1981 and March 23, 1981, respectively;

- An affidavit from [REDACTED] attesting to having been the applicant's roommate and co-resident in Bell, California, since March 1987; and
- A declaration from [REDACTED] who asserts she lived with the applicant in Inglewood, California, from February 1981 until March 1987, during which time they shared rent and utilities.

In this instance, the applicant submitted four affidavits attesting to his residence and employment in the U.S. during the period in question. Affidavits in certain cases can effectively meet the preponderance of evidence standard. The director has not established that any of the information in the affidavits and statements submitted by the applicant was false or inconsistent or at variance with the claims made by the applicant on the application. As stated on *Matter of E--M--*, *supra*, when something is to be established by a preponderance of evidence, the applicant only has to establish that the proof is probably true. That decision also points out that, under the preponderance of evidence standard, an application may be granted even though some doubt remains regarding the evidence. The documents that have been furnished, including affidavits submitted by persons many of whom are willing to testify in this matter, may be accorded substantial evidentiary weight and are sufficient to meet the applicant's burden of proof of residence in the United States for the requisite period.

It should also be noted that, unlike many applicants for permanent residence under the LIFE program, the present applicant has actually provided considerable contemporaneous evidence of residence in the form of photocopied customer receipts made out to the applicant from an auto body repair shop in Inglewood, California.

The third-party affidavits provided by the applicant, accompanied by contemporaneous evidence, support by a preponderance of the evidence that the applicant satisfies the statutory and regulatory criteria of entry into the United States before January 1, 1982, as well as continuous unlawful residence in the country during the ensuing time frame of January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988, as required for eligibility for legalization under section 1104(c)(2)(B)(i) of the LIFE Act.

Accordingly, the applicant's appeal will be sustained. The district director shall continue the adjudication of the application for permanent resident status.

**ORDER:** The appeal is sustained.