



U.S. Citizenship
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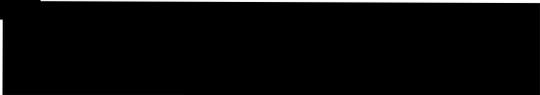
FILE:

Office: LOS ANGELES

Date: MAR 08 2006

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION: 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. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

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

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

On appeal, the applicant asserts that she has submitted sufficient documentation establishing continuous residence in the United States from prior to January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988. The applicant provides a letter dated April 17, 1995 from Father [REDACTED] assistant pastor of [REDACTED] in Compton, California who indicated that the applicant has been a member of the parish since 1981. The applicant also submitted copies of previously submitted documents in support of the appeal.

It is noted that the director, in denying the application, did not set forth the specific reasons for the denial pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.3. As such, the documentation submitted throughout the application process will be considered on appeal.

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. 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).

When something is to be established by a preponderance of the evidence it is sufficient that the proof establish that it is probably true. *See Matter of E-- M--*, 20 I. & N. Dec. 77 (Comm. 1989).

Although the regulations provide an illustrative list of contemporaneous documents that an applicant may submit, the list also permits the submission of affidavits and any other relevant document. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(vi)(L).

In an attempt to establish continuous unlawful residence since before January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988, the applicant provided the following evidence throughout the application process:

- An affidavit notarized November 8, 1994 from [REDACTED] of Hawthorne, California who attested to the applicant's residences in the United States since 1981. Mr. [REDACTED] based his knowledge on having been friends with the applicant since that time.
- A letter dated November 8, 1994 from [REDACTED] of Gardena, California who indicated that the applicant was in her employ as a domestic employee from March 1981 to December 1983.

- A letter dated November 8, 1994 from [REDACTED] of Gardena, California who indicated that the applicant was in her employ as a housekeeper from January 1984 to December 1989.
- A medical receipt dated August 1, 1983 from [REDACTED] Inc., in Los Angeles, California.
- A money order receipt dated April 5, 1988 from the Security Pacific National Bank in Norwalk, California.
- A money order receipt dated March 17, 1986.
- A PS Form 3806, receipt for registered mail postmarked August 24, 1985.
- A payment book reflecting several entries on February 24, 1982 and March 12, 1982.

The statement of the applicant on appeal regarding the amount and sufficiency of the applicant's evidence of residence has been considered. Furthermore, the applicant's contention of her inability to produce additional evidence of residence for the period in question was the result of the passage of time is considered to be a reasonable explanation in these circumstances.

In this instance, the applicant submitted evidence, including contemporaneous documents, which tends to corroborate her claim of residence in the United States during the requisite period. The district director has not established that the information in this evidence was inconsistent with the claims made on the application, or that it was false information. As stated in *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 furnished by affiants who have provided their addresses and have indicated their willingness to come forward and testify in this matter if necessary, 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.

The documentation provided by the applicant supports 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.