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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. A3042.
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

L4

DEC 02 2004



FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date:

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 210 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1160

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. 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, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for temporary resident status as a special agricultural worker was denied by the Director, Western Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish the performance of at least 90 man-days of qualifying agricultural employment during the eligibility period. This decision was based on adverse information acquired by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (the Service) relating to the applicant's claim of employment for Felipe Banda.

On appeal, the applicant reiterates his belief that he is eligible for temporary residence.

In order to be eligible for temporary resident status as a special agricultural worker, an alien must have engaged in qualifying agricultural employment for at least 90 man-days during the twelve-month period ending May 1, 1986, and must be otherwise admissible under section 210(c) of the Act and not ineligible under 8 C.F.R. § 210.3(d). 8 C.F.R. § 210.3(a). An applicant has the burden of proving the above by a preponderance of the evidence. 8 C.F.R. § 210.3(b).

On the Form I-700 application, the applicant claimed a total of 110 man-days of qualifying agricultural employment for [REDACTED] in San Joaquin County, California, from May 1985 to May 1986.

In support of his claim, the applicant submitted a corresponding Form I-705 affidavit and a separate employment letter, both signed by foreman [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] indicated that the applicant worked 30 man-days at Pannalla (sic) Ranch and the remaining 80 man-days at various farms in San Joaquin County, California.

In attempting to verify the applicant's claimed employment, the Service acquired information that contradicted the applicant's claim. On November 22, 1988, [REDACTED] personnel/payroll officer for M&R Ranches, informed the Service that [REDACTED] had never worked for M&R Ranches. On December 21, 1988, [REDACTED] payroll officer for Panella Ranch, informed the Service that [REDACTED] had never worked for Panella Ranch as an employee or contractor.

On July 5, 1991 the applicant was advised in writing of the adverse information obtained by the Service, and of the Service's intent to deny the application. The applicant was granted thirty days to respond. The applicant responded by submitting a copy of an undated letter, purportedly signed by [REDACTED] indicating that he employed [REDACTED] at M & R Packer, Panella Ranch, and Maywood Orchard during the eligibility period. The applicant also submitted an affidavit from [REDACTED] who stated that he did work for Mr. [REDACTED] and that the ranchers may not have remembered him (Mr. [REDACTED] because he was a foreman and not the farm labor contractor. Affidavits from two of the applicant's cousins were also furnished, each attesting to the applicant's employment for [REDACTED] at Rancho Panalla (sic).

The Service had obtained additional derogatory information that further undermined the credibility of the applicant's claim and documentation. Specifically, on January 3, 1989, Jose Arcos informed the Service that

he did not employ [REDACTED] during the eligibility period. Mr. [REDACTED] explained that [REDACTED] worked for him in 1981 or 1982 and not again until 1987.

A notice advising the applicant of this adverse evidence was sent to the applicant, but was returned to sender as undeliverable. The applicant has not submitted any documentation since he replied to the notice of intent to deny in 1991.

Generally, 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. § 210.3(b)(1). Evidence submitted by an applicant will have its sufficiency judged according to its probative value and credibility. 8 C.F.R. § 210.3(b)(2). Personal testimony by an applicant which is not corroborated, in whole or in part, by other credible evidence (including testimony by persons other than the applicant) will not serve to meet an applicant's burden of proof. 8 C.F.R. § 210.3(b)(3).

There is no mandatory type of documentation required with respect to the applicant's burden of proof; however, the documentation must be credible. All documents submitted must have an appearance of reliability, i.e., if the documents appear to have been forged, or otherwise deceitfully created or obtained, the documents are not credible. *United Farm Workers (AFL-CIO) v. INS*, Civil No. S-87-1064-JFM (E.D. Cal.).

Contact with a representative of Panella Ranch directly contradicts fundamental elements of the applicant's claim. The applicant has not overcome such derogatory evidence. The applicant's remaining claim of 80 days employment at "various ranches" is not sufficient to establish his eligibility. Furthermore, this claim is supported entirely by the testimony of [REDACTED] whose credibility as an affiant has been compromised by the adverse evidence obtained by the Service. Therefore, the documentary evidence submitted by the applicant cannot be considered as having any probative value or evidentiary weight.

The applicant has failed to establish the performance of at least 90 man-days of qualifying agricultural employment during the twelve-month statutory period ending May 1, 1986. Consequently, the applicant is ineligible for adjustment to temporary resident status as a special agricultural worker.

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