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**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

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FILE:



Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER

Date: MAR 16 2005

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION: Application for Waiver of Inadmissibility 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. All documents have been returned
to the office that decided your case.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for waiver of inadmissibility was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on certification. The decision will be affirmed.

The director denied the waiver application because the applicant was otherwise ineligible for temporary residence in the legalization program. The director reasoned that there would be no purpose in granting a waiver that could not assist the applicant in gaining temporary residence.

The applicant did not respond to the certified denial. Earlier, when he filed the application, he stated that his inadmissibility should be waived on account of his presence in the United States for many years. He pointed out that his family in the United States is dependent on him.

The applicant was excluded and deported on May 2, 1987. He is therefore inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(A)(i) of the Act, which relates to aliens who were deported. Pursuant to section 245A(d)(2)(B)(i) of the Act, such inadmissibility may be waived in the case of individual aliens for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, or when it is otherwise in the public interest.

The applicant has, indeed, resided in the United States for a very long period. He has many equities in this country. Nevertheless, the director denied the waiver application because the applicant cannot otherwise qualify for legalization because he fails to meet the "continuous residence" provision of the legalization program. The continuous residence requirement is an integral part of the legalization program, and is in fact the primary requirement.

An applicant for temporary residence 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). An alien shall not be considered to have resided continuously in the United States, if, during any period for which continuous residence is required, the alien was outside of the United States under an order of deportation. Section 245A(g)(2)(B)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255(g)(2)(b)(i).

As a result of the deportation, the applicant did not reside continuously in the United States for the requisite period. He is therefore statutorily ineligible for temporary residence on that basis.

Congress provided no relief in the legalization program for failure to maintain continuous residence due to a departure under an order of deportation. Relief is provided in the Act for absences based on factors other than deportation, namely absences due to emergencies and absences approved under the advance parole provisions. Clearly, with respect to maintenance of continuous residence, it was not congressional intent to provide relief for absences under an order of deportation.

The general grounds of inadmissibility are set forth in section 212(a) of the Act, and relate to any alien seeking a visa or admission into the United States, or adjustment of status. The applicant's inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9) for having been deported and having returned to the United States without authorization may be waived. However, an alien's inadmissibility under section 212(a) of the Act is an

entirely separate issue from the continuous residence issue discussed above. While the applicant's failure to maintain continuous residence, and his inadmissibility for having been deported and having returned without authorization, are both predicated on the deportation, a waiver is possible only for the inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9).

In support of his decision to deny the waiver application, the director cited *Matter of Martinez-Torres*, 10 I&N Dec. 776 (Reg. Comm. 1964) and *Matter of J-F-D-* 10 I&N Dec. 694 (Reg. Comm. 1963). Both decisions relate to applications for permission to reapply for admission after deportation filed by aliens long before the legalization program, yet the decisions are on point and relevant to the current proceedings. In each case the Regional Commissioner clearly found that no purpose would be served in granting an application when the alien was ineligible for the overall benefit.

It is concluded that the director's decision to deny the waiver application because no purpose would be served in granting it was proper, logical and legally sound. Therefore, it shall remain undisturbed.

ORDER: The decision is affirmed, and the application remains denied.