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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20529

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

H2

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: BANGKOK, THAILAND Date:

IN RE: [redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under Section 212(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(h)

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 waiver application was denied by the Acting District Director, Bangkok, Thailand, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of New Zealand who was found to be inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(2)(A)(i)(I), for having been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. The applicant is the spouse of a United States citizen and seeks a waiver of inadmissibility pursuant to section 212(h) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(h), so that she may reside in the United States with her spouse.

The acting district director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish that extreme hardship would be imposed on a qualifying relative and denied the Application for Waiver of Grounds of Excludability (Form I-601) accordingly. *Decision of the Acting District Director*, dated June 11, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant states that her spouse's illness is extreme.

The record includes letters from a physician treating the applicant's spouse, dated July 8, 2003 and March 14, 2003, respectively; a letter from the applicant's spouse, dated July 8, 2003; a letter from a psychiatrist, dated May 12, 2003; court documents relating to the criminal history of the applicant and letters of support. The entire record was considered in rendering this decision.

The record reflects that on April 30, 1999, the applicant was convicted of fraud and was sentenced to two years and three months of imprisonment. The AAO notes that any crime involving fraud is a crime of moral turpitude. *Burr v. INS*, 350 F.2d 87, 91 (9th Cir. 1965), *cert. denied*, 383 U.S. 915 (1966).

Section 212(a)(2)(A) of the Act states in pertinent part:

> (i) [A]ny alien convicted of, or who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of-
>
> > (I) a crime involving moral turpitude . . . or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such a crime . . . is inadmissible.
>
> (ii) Exception – Clause (i)(I) shall not apply to an alien who committed only one crime if –
>
> > (I) the crime was committed when the alien was under 18 years of age, and the crime was committed . . . more than 5 years before the date of application for a visa or other documentation and the date of application for admission to the United States ...

Section 212(h) of the Act provides, in pertinent part:

> (h) The Attorney General [Secretary of Homeland Security] may, in his discretion, waive the application of subparagraph (A)(i)(I) . . . of subsection (a)(2) . . . if -
>
> . . . .

> (1)(B) in the case of an immigrant who is the spouse, parent, son, or daughter of a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General [Secretary] that the alien's denial of admission would result in extreme hardship to the United States citizen or lawfully resident spouse, parent, son, or daughter of such alien . . .

A section 212(h) waiver of the bar to admission resulting from section 212(a)(2)(A) of the Act is dependent first upon a showing that the bar imposes an extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse, child or parent of the applicant. Any hardship suffered by the applicant herself is irrelevant to waiver proceedings under section 212(h) of the Act. Once extreme hardship is established, it is but one favorable factor to be considered in the determination of whether the Secretary should exercise discretion. *See Matter of Mendez,* 21 I&N Dec. 296 (BIA 1996).

Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez, 22 I&N Dec. 560, 565-566 (BIA 1999) provides a list of factors the Board of Immigration Appeals deems relevant in determining whether an alien has established extreme hardship pursuant to section 212(i) of the Act. These factors include the presence of a lawful permanent resident or United States citizen spouse or parent in this country; the qualifying relative's family ties outside the United States; the conditions in the country or countries to which the qualifying relative would relocate and the extent of the qualifying relative's ties in such countries; the financial impact of departure from this country; and significant conditions of health, particularly when tied to an unavailability of suitable medical care in the country to which the qualifying relative would relocate.

The applicant asserts that her spouse suffers from emphysema and clinical depression. The submitted letters from physicians treating the applicant's spouse verify that he suffers from these illnesses, however the doctors treating the applicant's spouse do not substantiate the assertion of the applicant that her spouse is dying of a chronic illness. *Letter from* [redacted] dated July 8, 2003 ("[Y]ou would make sure that if you were dieing [sic] of a chronic illness that you had every one around you that you wanted..."). *Letter from Dr. Greig McCormick*, dated May 12, 2003 ('[redacted] is a man with several health problems and in his mind he has decided that he has no more than 5 good quality of years life [sic] left..... [redacted] says that he wants to 'go home to die'"). The AAO notes that the medical and psychological condition of the applicant's husband has deteriorated since he left the United States and began residing in New Zealand. *Id.* However, the record fails to establish that a waiver of the applicant's inadmissibility to the United States would alleviate the drug dependency of the applicant's husband. *Id.* ("He has been prescribed alprazolam .. continuously over the last 10 years to the point where I now consider him to be dependent on this medication"). The record fails to demonstrate that the presence of the applicant in the United States is necessary for the medical or psychological well being of the applicant's spouse.

U.S. court decisions have repeatedly held that the common results of deportation or exclusion are insufficient to prove extreme hardship. *See Hassan v. INS,* 927 F.2d 465, 468 (9th Cir. 1991). For example, *Matter of Pilch*, 21 I&N Dec. 627 (BIA 1996), held that emotional hardship caused by severing family and community ties is a common result of deportation and does not constitute extreme hardship. In addition, *Perez v. INS,* 96 F.3d 390 (9th Cir. 1996), held that the common results of deportation are insufficient to prove extreme hardship and defined extreme hardship as hardship that was unusual or beyond that which would normally be expected upon deportation. *Hassan v. INS, supra,* held further that the uprooting of family and separation

from friends does not necessarily amount to extreme hardship but rather represents the type of inconvenience and hardship experienced by the families of most aliens being deported. The AAO recognizes that the applicant's spouse will likely endure hardship as a result of separation from the applicant if he decides to return to the United States. However, his situation, based on the record, is typical to individuals separated as a result of deportation or exclusion and does not rise to the level of extreme hardship.

A review of the documentation in the record fails to establish the existence of extreme hardship to the applicant's spouse caused by the applicant's inadmissibility to the United States. Having found the applicant statutorily ineligible for relief, no purpose would be served in discussing whether she merits a waiver as a matter of discretion.

In proceedings for application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility under section 212(i) of the Act, the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. *See* Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, the applicant has not met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.