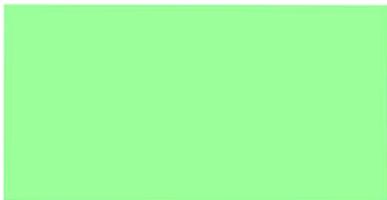


U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

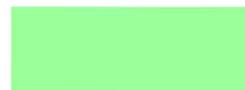
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Date: **JUL 18 2014** Office:

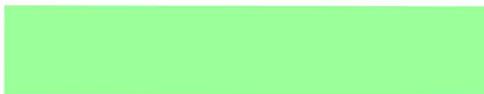
VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

FILE:



IN RE:

PETITIONER:



PETITION:

Petition for U Nonimmigrant Classification as a Victim of a Qualifying Crime Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(U) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(U)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) in your case.

This is a non-precedent decision. The AAO does not announce new constructions of law nor establish agency policy through non-precedent decisions. If you believe the AAO incorrectly applied current law or policy to your case or if you seek to present new facts for consideration, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen, respectively. Any motion must be filed on a Notice of Appeal or Motion (Form I-290B) within 33 days of the date of this decision. **Please review the Form I-290B instructions at <http://www.uscis.gov/forms> for the latest information on fee, filing location, and other requirements. See also 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. Do not file a motion directly with the AAO.**

Thank you,

Ron Rosenberg
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, Vermont Service Center (the director), denied the U nonimmigrant visa petition and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed and the petition will remain denied.

The petitioner seeks nonimmigrant classification under section 101(a)(15)(U) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(U), as an alien victim of certain qualifying criminal activity.

The director denied the petition because the petitioner did not submit a properly executed Form I-918 Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification (Form I-918 Supplement B). In addition, the director noted that the petitioner did not have his biometrics taken or submit a statement regarding his victimization. Further, the director noted that the petitioner did not establish his eligibility as it relates to possession of information, helpfulness to law enforcement, substantial abuse, or that he is admissible to the United States. On appeal, the petitioner submits a new unsigned Form I-918 Supplement B, documents already included in the record, and indicates that a brief or other evidence will be submitted within 30 days, or by June 8, 2013. As of the date of this decision, however, the AAO has received no additional statements or evidence.

Applicable Law

Section 101(a)(15)(U) of the Act provides U nonimmigrant classification to alien victims of certain qualifying criminal activity and their qualifying family members. Section 214(p)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1184(p)(1) states:

The petition filed by an alien under section 101(a)(15)(U)(i) shall contain a certification from a Federal, State, or local law enforcement official, prosecutor, judge, or other Federal, State, or local authority investigating criminal activity described in section 101(a)(15)(U)(iii). This certification may also be provided by an official of the Service whose ability to provide such certification is not limited to information concerning immigration violations. This certification shall state that the alien "has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful" in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity described in section 101(a)(15)(U)(iii).

Regarding the application procedures for U nonimmigrant classification, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 214.14(c) states, in pertinent part:

(2) *Initial evidence.* Form I-918 must include the following initial evidence:

(i) Form I-918, Supplement B, "U Nonimmigrant Status Certification," signed by a certifying official within the six months immediately preceding the filing of Form I-918. The certification must state that: the person signing the certificate is the head of the certifying agency, or any person(s) in a supervisory role who has been specifically designated by the head of the certifying agency to issue U nonimmigrant status certifications on behalf of that agency, or is a Federal, State, or local judge; the agency is a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, or prosecutor, judge or other authority, that has responsibility for the

detection, investigation, prosecution, conviction, or sentencing of qualifying criminal activity; the applicant has been a victim of qualifying criminal activity that the certifying official's agency is investigating or prosecuting; the petitioner possesses information concerning the qualifying criminal activity of which he or she has been a victim; the petitioner has been, is being, or is likely to be helpful to an investigation or prosecution of that qualifying criminal activity; and the qualifying criminal activity violated U.S. law, or occurred in the United States, its territories, its possessions, Indian country, or at military installations abroad.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 214.14(c)(4), prescribes the evidentiary standards and burden of proof in these proceedings:

The burden shall be on the petitioner to demonstrate eligibility for U-1 nonimmigrant status. The petitioner may submit any credible evidence relating to his or her Form I-918 for consideration by [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)]. USCIS shall conduct a de novo review of all evidence submitted in connection with Form I-918 and may investigate any aspect of the petition. Evidence previously submitted for this or other immigration benefit or relief may be used by USCIS in evaluating the eligibility of a petitioner for U-1 nonimmigrant status. However, USCIS will not be bound by its previous factual determinations. USCIS will determine, in its sole discretion, the evidentiary value of previously or concurrently submitted evidence, including Form I-918, Supplement B, "U Nonimmigrant Status Certification."

Facts and Procedural History

The petitioner is a native and citizen of Mexico who claims to have entered the United States in November 2000 on a border crossing card. The petitioner filed the instant Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status (Form I-918 U petition), on January 22, 2013, with an unsigned Form I-918 Supplement B. On February 12, 2013, the petitioner submitted another unsigned Form I-918 Supplement B. The director subsequently denied the petition because the petitioner failed to submit a properly executed Form I-918 Supplement B. The director also noted that the petitioner did not have his biometrics taken or submit a statement regarding his victimization. Further, the director noted that the petitioner did not establish his eligibility as it relates to possession of information, helpfulness to law enforcement, substantial abuse, or that he is admissible to the United States. The petitioner appealed the denial of the Form I-198 U petition.

On appeal, the petitioner claims that he provided substantial assistance to law enforcement in the investigation of a Mexican drug cartel, and he has received death threats, had his house burned down, and his family is in danger.

Analysis

The AAO conducts appellate review on a de novo basis. *See Soltane v. DOJ*, 381 F.3d 143, 145 (3d Cir. 2004). Upon review, we find no error in the director's decision to deny the petition based upon lack of required initial evidence.

The petitioner has failed to submit a Form I-918 Supplement B from a certifying agency and signed by a certifying official, which is required initial evidence when filing a Form I-918 U petition. 8 C.F.R. § 214.14(c)(2)(i). According to the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(8)(ii), “[i]f all required initial evidence is not submitted with the benefit request or does not demonstrate eligibility, USCIS in its discretion may deny the benefit request for lack of initial evidence or for ineligibility” Statements and letters from the petitioner may not be accepted in lieu of the law enforcement certification required by the statute at section 214(p)(1) of the Act. We recognize the difficulties that a petitioner may face in obtaining a law enforcement certification; however, USCIS lacks the authority to waive the statutory requirement for the certification at section 214(p)(1) of the Act. As the petitioner has failed to provide a Form I-918 Supplement B that conforms to the regulatory requirements listed at 8 C.F.R. § 214.14(c)(2)(i), he has failed to establish his eligibility for U nonimmigrant classification under section 101(a)(15)(U)(i) of the Act. See subsections 101(a)(15)(U)(i)(I)–(IV) of the Act (requiring qualifying criminal activity for all prongs of eligibility).¹

Conclusion

The petitioner has not complied with the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 214.14(c)(2)(i) regarding the submission of required initial evidence. The petitioner is consequently ineligible for nonimmigrant classification pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(U)(i) of the Act and his petition must be denied.

In visa petition proceedings, it is the petitioner's burden to establish eligibility for the immigration benefit sought. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361; *Matter of Otiende*, 26 I&N Dec. 127, 128 (BIA 2013). Here, that burden has not been met.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed. The petition remains denied.

¹ The director also noted that the petitioner may be inadmissible to the United States and did not establish his eligibility as it relates to substantial abuse, helpfulness to law enforcement, and possession of information. The director did not, however, discuss these issues further because the petition was being denied due to the lack of initial evidence. We also do not discuss the petitioner's possible inadmissibility grounds or statutory eligibility for U nonimmigrant status, as he has failed to submit the required law enforcement certification at section 214(p)(1) of the Act.