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**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
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Washington, DC 20529-2090



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

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invasion of personal privacy

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FILE:

Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER

Date: **FEB 06 2009**

IN RE:

Applicant:

APPLICATION: Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document under Section 338 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1449.

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.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required by 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Grissom".

John F. Grissom, Acting Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native of Ecuador and a naturalized citizen of the United States. She seeks to have her Certificate of Naturalization corrected under section 338 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1449, to reflect a change in her date of birth from January 10, 1952 to December 7, 1951.

The Director reviewed the applicant's record and determined that a correction to her Certificate of Naturalization was not justified. *Decision of the Director*, dated August 12, 2008. The application was denied accordingly.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that her Certificate of Naturalization contains an erroneous date of birth. She submits copies of the following documents that state her date of birth as December 7, 1951: (1) a U.S. Social Security Administration Form SSA-2458, Report of Confidential Social Security Information; (2) a birth certificate issued by the Republic of Ecuador, with English translation; and (3) a Republic of Ecuador identification card, with fingerprint and picture. The AAO notes also that the record contains a Form G-325, Biographic Information, dated February 28, 1970 that specifies December 7, 1951 as the applicant's date of birth. However, the applicant's Form N-400, Application to File Petition for Naturalization, specifies the applicant's date of birth as January 10, 1952, which is the same date of birth that appears on her Certificate of Naturalization. The AAO also observes that the record also contains a Form SF-510 (Spanish), Solicitud De Visa De Inmigrante Y Registro De Extranjero, signed by the applicant's sister in 1964, that specifies the applicant's date of birth as January 10, 1952.

Section 338 of the Act provides the statutory authority relating to the contents of a Certificate of Naturalization. In addition, the specific regulations regarding the execution and issuance of Certificates of Naturalization are contained in 8 C.F.R. § 338.5, and provide, in part, that:

- (a) Whenever a Certificate of Naturalization has been delivered which does not conform to the facts shown on the application for naturalization, or a clerical error was made in preparing the certificate, an application for issuance of a corrected certificate, Form N-565, without fee, may be filed by the naturalized person.

....

- (e) The correction will not be deemed to be justified where the naturalized person later alleges that the name or date of birth which the applicant stated to be his or her correct name or date of birth at the time of naturalization was not in fact his or her own name or date of birth at the time of naturalization.

Based on the evidence contained in the record, the applicant has not established that her Certificate of Naturalization contains Immigration and Naturalization Service (now United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)) related clerical errors, and the AAO finds that the information

on the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization conforms to the facts as set forth in her Form N-400. Accordingly, the Director correctly found that there are no provisions under 8 C.F.R. § 338.5 to justify or to allow for a USCIS correction to the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization.

Because there are no clerical errors in the present matter, USCIS has no statutory authority to make any corrections to the applicant's certificate of citizenship, and only a federal court with jurisdiction over the applicant's naturalization proceedings has the authority to order that an amendment be made to the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization, after a hearing in which the Government is provided an opportunity to present its position on the matter. Such a hearing ensues pursuant to a motion to the court for an Order Amending a Certificate of Naturalization. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 334.16(b). *See also, Chan v. Immigration and Naturalization Service*, 426 F. Supp. 680 (1976) and *Varghai v. Immigration and Naturalization Service*, 932 F. Supp. 1245 (1996).

8 C.F.R. § 334.16(b) states in pertinent part that:

[W]henever an application is made to the court to amend a petition for naturalization after final action thereon has been taken by the court, a copy of the application shall be served upon the district director having administrative jurisdiction over the territory in which the court is located, in the manner and within the time provided by the rules of court in which the application is made. No objection shall be made to the amendment of a petition for naturalization after the petitioner for naturalization has been admitted to citizenship if the motion or application is to correct a clerical error arising from oversight or omission. A representative of the Service [USCIS] may appear at the hearing upon such application and be heard in favor of or in opposition thereto. When the court orders the petition amended, the clerk of court shall transmit a copy of the order to the district director for inclusion in the Service file.

Based on the reasoning set forth above, the appeal will be dismissed without prejudice to the applicant's submitting a request to a U.S. Federal Court in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.