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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE:



Office: WICHITA

Date:

NOV 01 2010

IN RE:

Obligor:

Bonded Alien:



IMMIGRATION BOND:

Bond Conditioned for the Delivery of an Alien under Section 103 of the
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1103

ON BEHALF OF OBLIGOR: Self-represented

INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All of the documents related to this matter have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Please be advised that any further inquiry that you might have concerning your case must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied by us in reaching our decision, or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. The specific requirements for filing such a request can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion. The fee for a Form I-290B is currently \$585, but will increase to \$630 on November 23, 2010. Any appeal or motion filed on or after November 23, 2010, must be filed with the \$630 fee. Please be aware that 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i) requires that any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen.

Thank you,

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The delivery bond in this matter was declared breached by the Field Office Director, Detention and Removal, [REDACTED] and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record indicates that on October 19, 2007, the obligor posted a \$17,000 bond conditioned for the delivery of the above referenced alien. A Notice to Deliver Alien (Form I-340) dated January 23, 2010, was sent to the obligor via certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice demanded the bonded alien's surrender into the custody of an officer of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at 8:00 a.m. on February 16, 2010, at [REDACTED]. The obligor failed to present the alien, and the alien failed to appear as required. On February 18, 2010, the field office director informed the obligor that the delivery bond had been breached.

The Form I-352 provides that the obligor and co-obligor are jointly and severally liable for the obligations imposed by the bond contract. As such, ICE may pursue a breach of bond against one or both of the contracting parties. *See Restatement (Third) of Suretyship and Guaranty* § 50 (1996). Consequently, the record clearly establishes that the notice was properly served on either the obligor or the co-obligor in compliance with 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(a)(2)(iv). Reference in this decision to the obligor is equally applicable to the co-obligor and vice versa.

On appeal, the obligor asserts that a decision was rendered by ICE to allow a voluntary departure of the bonded alien, but “no notice was provided to our company of a stay of execution on her departure and this action substantially increased the risk of our bond.” The obligor asserts that had a timely and proper notice be given of the August 14, 2009 hearing date, it could have surrendered the alien into custody at that time. The obligor asserts that a surety company does not have any authority to arrest and surrender the alien into custody, thereby making it impossible to fulfill the conditions of the appearance of the alien.

The record reflects that a removal hearing was held on August 14, 2009, and the alien was granted voluntary departure from the United States on or before December 14, 2009. The immigration judge imposed no requirement for a voluntary departure bond and did not set other conditions on the grant of voluntary departure.

Bond proceedings are separate and distinct from removal proceedings. Removal proceedings are between the United States government and an alien with a questionable right to remain in the United States. A delivery bond is a contract between ICE and the obligor, where in consideration for obtaining the alien's release from custody, the obligor agrees to produce the alien on demand until the obligation to do so terminates under grounds specified in the contract.

The AAO has held that an alien who departs from the United States prior to the date demanded for surrender may be in substantial compliance with the terms of his delivery bond. *Matter of Don Donaldson's Key Bail Service*, 13 I&N Dec. 563 (Acting Reg. Comm. 1969). However, the burden is upon the alien or his surety to prove by probative evidence that the alien did leave the

country prior to his surrender date. *Matter of Peerless Insurance Company*, 15 I&N Dec. 133 (Reg. Comm. 1974).

A physical verification of departure by an immigration officer at the port of departure, or a verification of the alien's presence in the foreign destination by a United States consular officer or immigration officer abroad, is required to verify departure.

ICE will accept a document signed by an embassy official, consular officer, or an immigration officer abroad, and bearing an appropriate seal or other indicia of reliability as proof that a voluntary departure or self-removal has occurred. The field office director retains the discretion to accept other documents of voluntary departure. The original of such documents may be delivered either by the surety or through diplomatic channels. Copies of such documents will be accepted only if received through diplomatic channels.

On appeal, the obligor asserts that the alien's family indicated that the alien "had already left the country, in December 2009." However, the obligor's assertion is unsupported by any acceptable evidentiary documentation. Simply going on record without supporting documentary evidence is not sufficient for purposes of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *Matter of Soffici*, 22 I&N Dec. 158, 165 (Comm. 1998) (citing *Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972)).

ICE records reflect that the alien departed the United States on March 23, 2010.

Delivery bonds are violated if the obligor fails to cause the bonded alien to be produced or to produce himself/herself to an immigration officer or immigration judge upon each and every written request until removal proceedings are finally terminated, or until the alien is actually accepted by ICE for detention or removal. *Matter of Smith*, 16 I&N Dec. 146 (Reg. Comm. 1977).

The regulations provide that an obligor shall be released from liability where there has been "substantial performance" of all conditions imposed by the terms of the bond. 8 C.F.R. § 103.6(c)(3). A bond is breached when there has been a substantial violation of the stipulated conditions of the bond. 8 C.F.R. §103.6(e).

8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(a)(2) provides that personal service may be effected by any of the following:

- (i) Delivery of a copy personally;
- (ii) Delivery of a copy at a person's dwelling house or usual place of abode by leaving it with some person of suitable age and discretion;
- (iii) Delivery of a copy at the office of an attorney or other person including a corporation, by leaving it with a person in charge;

- (iv) Mailing a copy by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to a person at his last known address.

The evidence of record indicates that the Notice to Deliver Alien dated January 23, 2010, was sent to the obligor via certified mail. This notice demanded that the obligor produce the bonded alien on February 16, 2010. The domestic return receipt indicates the obligor received notice to produce the bonded alien on February 5, 2010. Consequently, the record clearly establishes that the notice was properly served on the obligor in compliance with 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(a)(2)(iv).

It is clear from the language used in the bond agreement that the obligor shall cause the alien to be produced or the alien shall produce himself to an ICE officer upon each and every request of such officer until removal proceedings are either finally terminated or the alien is accepted by ICE for detention or removal.

It must be noted that delivery bonds are exacted to insure that aliens will be produced when and where required by ICE for hearings or removal. Such bonds are necessary in order for ICE to function in an orderly manner. The courts have long considered the confusion which would result if aliens could be surrendered at any time or place it suited the alien's or the surety's convenience. Matter of L-, 3 I&N Dec. 862 (C.O. 1950).

After a careful review of the record, it is concluded that the conditions of the bond have been substantially violated, and the collateral has been forfeited. The decision of the field office director will not be disturbed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.