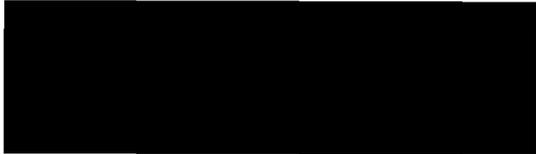


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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals
20 Massachusetts Ave. NW MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090
**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**



H6

DATE: OFFICE: CIUDAD JUAREZ, MEXICO File:

MAR 29 2012

IN RE: Applicant:

APPLICATION: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a)(9)(B)(v)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

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 your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$630. 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 waiver application was denied by the Field Office Director, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Mexico who was found to be inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) for having been unlawfully present in the United States for more than one year and seeking readmission within 10 years of her last departure from the United States. The applicant seeks a waiver of inadmissibility in order to reside in the United States with her U.S. citizen spouse and child.

The Field Office Director concluded that the applicant failed to establish that extreme hardship would be imposed on a qualifying relative and denied the Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility (Form I-601) accordingly. See *Decision of the Field Office Director*, dated September 23, 2009.

On appeal, the applicant's spouse states that his 2-year-old son has health problems and needs both of his parents on his side. See *Form I-290B*, Notice of Appeal or Motion, and Addendum, received October 26, 2009.

The record contains but is not limited to: Form I-601 and denial letter; hardship letters; applicant's letter; character reference letters; pediatrician's letter; and Form I-130. The record also contains three Spanish language documents appearing to be letters from [REDACTED] dated April 17, 2009. None of the Spanish language documents were accompanied by full English translations with proper certifications as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(3).¹ Because the applicant failed to submit the required translations for these documents, the AAO will not consider them in this proceeding. The entire record, with the exception of the three Spanish language documents described, was reviewed and considered in rendering this decision on the appeal.

The record reflects that the applicant entered the United States without inspection in March 1992, when she was 9-years-old. The applicant accrued unlawful presence from her 18th birthday on October 16, 2000, until June 2008 when she departed the United States to Mexico.² As the applicant was unlawfully present for more than one year and seeks readmission within 10 years of her last departure, she was found inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act, 8 USC § 1182(a)(9)(B)(i)(II). The record supports this finding, the applicant does not dispute the finding, and the AAO concurs that the applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Act.

¹ 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(3). Translations. Any document containing foreign language submitted to USCIS shall be accompanied by a full English language translation which the translator has certified as complete and accurate, and by the translator's certification that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English.

² The Field Office Director erred in finding that the applicant began accruing unlawful presence on April 1, 1997 as unlawful presence is not accrued until the age of eighteen. The AAO finds that the error is harmless because the applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i) of the Act whether she accrued 8 or 11 years unlawful presence.

Section 212(a)(9) of the Act provides:

(B) ALIENS UNLAWFULLY PRESENT.-

(i) In general.- Any alien (other than an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence) who- ...

(II) has been unlawfully present in the United States for one year or more, and who again seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal from the United States, is inadmissible.

...

(v) Waiver.-The Attorney General has sole discretion to waive clause (i) in the case of an immigrant who is the spouse or son or daughter of a United States citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the refusal of admission to such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such alien. No court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision or action by the Attorney General regarding a waiver under this clause.

A waiver of inadmissibility under section 212(9)(B)(v) of the Act is dependent on a showing that the bar to admission imposes extreme hardship on a qualifying relative, which includes the U.S. citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of the applicant. Hardship to the applicant or applicant's child can be considered only insofar as it results in hardship to a qualifying relative. In the present case, the applicant's spouse is the only qualifying relative. If extreme hardship to a qualifying relative is established, the applicant is statutorily eligible for a waiver, and USCIS then assesses whether a favorable exercise of discretion is warranted. *See Matter of Mendez-Morales*, 21 I&N Dec. 296, 301 (BIA 1996).

Extreme hardship is "not a definable term of fixed and inflexible content or meaning," but "necessarily depends upon the facts and circumstances peculiar to each case." *Matter of Hwang*, 10 I&N Dec. 448, 451 (BIA 1964). In *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, the Board provided a list of factors it deemed relevant in determining whether an alien has established extreme hardship to a qualifying relative. 22 I&N Dec. 560, 565 (BIA 1999). The 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. *Id.* The Board added that not all of the foregoing factors need be analyzed in any given case and emphasized that the list of factors was not exclusive. *Id.* at 566.

The Board has also held that the common or typical results of removal and inadmissibility do not constitute extreme hardship, and has listed certain individual hardship factors considered common rather than extreme. These factors include: economic disadvantage, loss of current employment, inability to maintain one's present standard of living, inability to pursue a chosen profession, separation from family members, severing community ties, cultural readjustment after living in the United States for many years, cultural adjustment of qualifying relatives who have never lived outside the United States, inferior economic and educational opportunities in the foreign country, or inferior medical facilities in the foreign country. See generally *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. at 568; *Matter of Pileh*, 21 I&N Dec. 627, 632-33 (BIA 1996); *Matter of Ige*, 20 I&N Dec. 880, 883 (BIA 1994); *Matter of Ngai*, 19 I&N Dec. 245, 246-47 (Comm'r 1984); *Matter of Kim*, 15 I&N Dec. 88, 89-90 (BIA 1974); *Matter of Shaughnessy*, 12 I&N Dec. 810, 813 (BIA 1968).

However, though hardships may not be extreme when considered abstractly or individually, the Board has made it clear that "[r]elevant factors, though not extreme in themselves, must be considered in the aggregate in determining whether extreme hardship exists." *Matter of O-J-O*, 21 I&N Dec. 381, 383 (BIA 1996) (quoting *Matter of Ige*, 20 I&N Dec. at 882). The adjudicator "must consider the entire range of factors concerning hardship in their totality and determine whether the combination of hardships takes the case beyond those hardships ordinarily associated with deportation." *Id.*

The actual hardship associated with an abstract hardship factor such as family separation, economic disadvantage, cultural readjustment, et cetera, differs in nature and severity depending on the unique circumstances of each case, as does the cumulative hardship a qualifying relative experiences as a result of aggregated individual hardships. See, e.g., *Matter of Bing Chih Kao and Mei Tsui Lin*, 25 I&N Dec. 45, 51 (BIA 2001) (distinguishing *Matter of Pileh* regarding hardship faced by qualifying relatives on the basis of variations in the length of residence in the United States and the ability to speak the language of the country to which they would relocate). For example, though family separation has been found to be a common result of inadmissibility or removal separation from family living in the United States can also be the most important single hardship factor in considering hardship in the aggregate. See *Salcido-Salcido*, 138 F.3d at 1293 (quoting *Comreras-Buerfji v. INS*, 712 F.2d 401, 403 (9th Cir. 1983)); but see *Matter of Ngai*, 19 I&N Dec. at 247 (separation of spouse and children from applicant not extreme hardship due to conflicting evidence in the record and because applicant and spouse had been voluntarily separated from one another for 28 years). Therefore, we consider the totality of the circumstances in determining whether denial of admission would result in extreme hardship to a qualifying relative.

The record reflects that the applicant's spouse is a 27-year-old native of Mexico and citizen of the United States. The applicant's spouse states that he and his wife are church missionaries who need to be together as a family. He states that he is deeply distressed due to separation from the applicant and that it is difficult to keep up with all the things he has to do in her absence, including bringing his son to the U.S. for doctor's appointments. The applicant's spouse states that because he has to work, he must leave his son with strangers in the applicant's absence. He states that the

child cries and cries asking for his mother, and it drives him crazy. While the AAO recognizes that the applicant's spouse has faced difficulties being separated from his wife and at times his son, the evidence is insufficient to establish that such difficulties go beyond those ordinarily associated with a family member's inadmissibility.

Assertions have been made concerning hardship to the applicant's child. As discussed above, hardship to the applicant's children can be considered only insofar as it results in hardship to the applicant's qualifying relative – here the applicant's spouse. The applicant's spouse states that his son has health problems and needs both parents, especially his mother. He does not describe the health problems to which he refers and the record contains no new probative documentary evidence on appeal concerning his son's health. In a letter dated June 19, 2008, [REDACTED] asserts that the applicant's son was seen on June 3, 2008 for an upper respiratory infection, his last physical was on April 15, 2008, she recommends he return in two months and have regular well child visits. The evidence is insufficient to establish significant medical condition(s) to the applicant's son such that it would cause extreme hardship to the applicant's spouse.

The AAO acknowledges that separation from the applicant may cause various difficulties for the applicant's spouse. However, it finds the evidence in the record insufficient to demonstrate that the challenges encountered by the qualifying relative, when considered cumulatively, meet the extreme hardship standard.

The applicant's spouse does not address the possibility of relocating to Mexico, and the record contains no assertions of relocation-related hardship. The AAO will not speculate in this regard and finds the evidence insufficient to demonstrate that the applicant's U.S. citizen spouse would suffer extreme hardship if he were to relocate to Mexico to be with the applicant.

The applicant has, therefore, failed to demonstrate the challenges her spouse faces are unusual or beyond the common results of removal or inadmissibility to the level of extreme hardship. Accordingly, the AAO finds that the applicant has failed to demonstrate extreme hardship to a qualifying relative. As the applicant has not established extreme hardship to a qualifying family member no purpose would be served in determining whether the applicant merits a waiver as a matter of discretion.

In proceedings for application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. 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.