



U.S. Citizenship
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FILE:



Office: California Service Center

Date:

Aug 19 2005

IN RE:

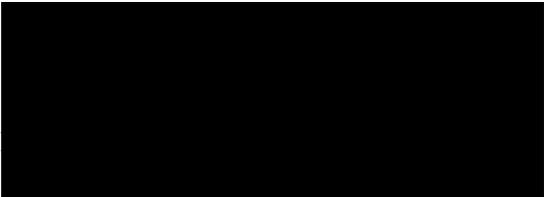
Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 245A of the
Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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. If your appeal was sustained, or if your case was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. If your appeal was dismissed, you no longer have a case pending before this office, and you are not entitled to file a motion to reopen or reconsider your case.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for temporary resident status was denied by the Director, Western Regional Processing Facility, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director denied the application because of the applicant's criminal record. In his appeal, dated July 3, 1990, counsel referred to the denial as an abuse of discretion, and criticized the director for failing to advise the applicant that he could have obtained expungements of his convictions. Since then, neither counsel nor the applicant has submitted expungements or anything else.

An alien is ineligible for temporary residence if he has been convicted of a felony, or three or more misdemeanors committed in the United States. See 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(c)(1).

"Felony" means a crime committed in the United States punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, except when the offense is defined by the state as a misdemeanor, and the sentence actually imposed is one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served. Under this exception, for purposes of 8 C.F.R. Part 245a, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.1(p).

"Misdemeanor" means a crime committed in the United States, either (1) punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, or (2) a crime treated as a misdemeanor under 8 C.F.R. § 245a.1(p). For purposes of this definition, any crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of five days or less shall not be considered a misdemeanor. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.1(o).

The record reveals the applicant was convicted of the two separate offenses of Felony Drunk Driving and Felony Driving Under the Influence on September 17, 1987. On May 17, 1985, he was convicted of the misdemeanor offenses of Unlicensed Driver and Failure to Appear. All of these offenses occurred in California.

There is no evidence that the convictions were expunged. More importantly, under the statutory definition of "conviction" provided at section 101(a)(48)(A) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(48)(A), no effect is to be given, in immigration proceedings, to a state action which purports to expunge, dismiss, cancel, vacate, discharge, or otherwise remove a guilty plea or other record of guilt or conviction. Any subsequent action which overturns a conviction, other than on the merits of the case, is ineffective to expunge a conviction for immigration purposes. An alien remains convicted for immigration purposes notwithstanding a subsequent state action purporting to erase the original determination of guilt. *Matter of Roldan*, 22 I&N Dec. 512 (BIA 1999).

Because of his felony convictions, the applicant remains ineligible for temporary resident status.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed. This decision constitutes a final notice of ineligibility.