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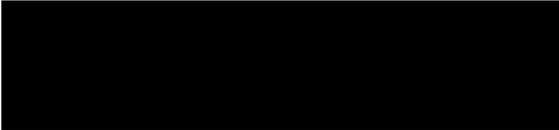
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Rm. A3042
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U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED]

Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

MAR 14 2005
Date:

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

PETITION: Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 210 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1160

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. If your appeal was sustained, or if the matter 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 as a special agricultural worker was denied by the Director, Western Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish the performance of at least 90 man-days of qualifying agricultural employment during the eligibility period. This decision was based on adverse information regarding the applicant's claim of employment for [REDACTED]

On appeal, the applicant requested a copy of his legalization file. The AAO complied with the request on April 3, 1995. The applicant stated that he tried to locate [REDACTED] and was unable to do so. The applicant stated that most farmers did not keep records of employment, and that, four (4) years after he filed his application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), he should not be asked to provide additional documentary evidence.

In order to be eligible for temporary resident status as a special agricultural worker, an alien must have engaged in qualifying agricultural employment for at least 90 man-days during the twelve-month period ending May 1, 1986, and must be otherwise admissible under section 210(c) of the Act and not ineligible under 8 C.F.R. 210.3(d). 8 C.F.R. 210.3(a). An applicant has the burden of proving the above by a preponderance of the evidence. 8 C.F.R. 210.3(b).

On the Form I-700 application, the applicant claimed to have performed 139 man-days of qualifying agricultural employment for [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in Fresno, California from May 1985 to November 1985.

In support of the claim, the applicant submitted a corresponding Form I-705 affidavit and a separate employment letter, both purportedly signed by [REDACTED] Comptroller for [REDACTED]

In the course of attempting to verify the applicant's claimed employment, CIS acquired information which cast doubt on the credibility of the applicant's documentation. The signatures on the applicant's supporting documents were found by forensic analysis not to match genuine exemplars obtained by the Service.

On March 5, 1992, the applicant was advised in writing of the adverse information obtained by the Service, and of the Service's intent to deny the application. The applicant was granted thirty days to respond. The record contains no response from the applicant to the notice.

The director concluded the applicant had not overcome the derogatory evidence, and denied the application on April 20, 1992.

On appeal, the applicant stated that he tried to locate [REDACTED] and was unable to do so. The applicant stated that most farmers did not keep records of employment and that, after four (4) years, CIS) should not be asking him to provide additional documentary evidence.

The burden of proof is on the applicant to establish eligibility for the benefit sought. The applicant has not satisfied that burden. The applicant claims that farmers do not keep employment record. However, this claim is not corroborated by any documentation from the applicant's purported employer that employment records were not kept. Rather, the applicant has submitted documentary evidence which is purportedly a record of the applicant's employment. Therefore, the applicant's claim on appeal must be viewed as conjecture.

Generally, the inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility, and amenability to verification. 8 C.F.R. 210.3(b)(1). Evidence submitted by an applicant will have its sufficiency judged according to its probative value and credibility. 8 C.F.R. 210.3(b)(2). Personal testimony by an applicant which is not corroborated, in whole or in part, by other credible evidence (including testimony by persons other than the applicant) will not serve to meet an applicant's burden of proof. 8 C.F.R. 210.3(b)(3).

There is no mandatory type of documentation required with respect to the applicant's burden of proof; however, the documentation must be credible. All documents submitted must have an appearance of reliability, i.e., if the documents appear to have been forged, or otherwise deceitfully created or obtained, the documents are not credible. *United Farm Workers (AFL-CIO) v. INS*, Civil No. S-87-1064-JFM (E.D. Cal.).

The signature discrepancy noted by the director calls into question the origin and authenticity of the applicant's documentation. The applicant has not overcome this derogatory evidence. Therefore, the documentary evidence submitted by the applicant cannot be considered as having any probative value or evidentiary weight.

The applicant has, therefore, failed to credibly establish the performance of at least 90 man-days of qualifying agricultural employment during the twelve-month statutory period ending May 1, 1986. Consequently, the applicant is ineligible for adjustment to temporary resident status as a special agricultural worker.

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