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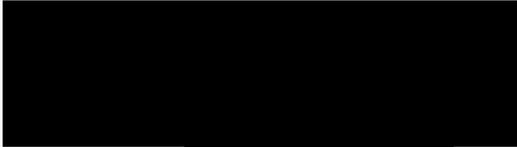
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
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FILE:

MSC-05-133-10112

Office: DALLAS

Date:

SEP 22 2009

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:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. If your appeal was dismissed or rejected, all documents have been returned to the National Benefits Center. If your appeal was sustained, or if your case was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. If your appeal was dismissed or rejected, 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.

John F. Grissom
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for temporary resident status pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreements reached in *Catholic Social Services, Inc., et al., v. Ridge, et al.*, CIV. NO. S-86-1343-LKK (E.D. Cal) January 23, 2004, and *Felicity Mary Newman, et al., v. United States Immigration and Citizenship Services, et al.*, CIV. NO. 87-4757-WDK (C.D. Cal) February 17, 2004 (CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements), was denied by the Director, Dallas, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant submitted a Form I-687, Application for Status as a Temporary Resident under Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), and a Form I-687 Supplement, CSS/Newman Class Membership Worksheet (together comprising the I-687 Application). The director denied the application, finding that the applicant had failed to provide sufficient documentation to establish his eligibility for temporary resident status.

On appeal, the applicant submits additional evidence to show that he has resided continuously in the United States since before January 1, 1982.

An applicant for temporary resident status must establish entry into the United States before January 1, 1982, and continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since such date and through the date the application is filed. Section 245A(a)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(2). The applicant must also establish that he or she has been continuously physically present in the United States since November 6, 1986. Section 245A(a)(3) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(3). The regulations clarify that the applicant must have been physically present in the United States from November 6, 1986 until the date of filing the application. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b).

For purposes of establishing residence and physical presence under the CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements, the term “until the date of filing” in 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b)(1) means until the date the applicant attempted to file a completed Form I-687 application and fee or was caused not to timely file during the original legalization application period of May 5, 1987 to May 4, 1988. CSS Settlement Agreement, paragraph 11 at page 6; Newman Settlement Agreement, paragraph 11 at page 10.

The applicant has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she has resided in the United States for the requisite period, is admissible to the United States under the provisions of section 245A of the Act, and is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status. 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. § 245a.2(d)(5).

Although the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3) provides an illustrative list of contemporaneous documents that an applicant may submit in support of his or her claim of continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since prior to January 1, 1982, the submission of any other relevant document is permitted pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(vi)(L). To meet his or her burden of proof, an applicant must provide evidence of eligibility apart from the applicant’s own testimony. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(6).

The “preponderance of the evidence” standard requires that the evidence demonstrate that the applicant's claim is “probably true,” where the determination of “truth” is made based on the factual circumstances of each individual case. *Matter of E-M-*, 20 I&N Dec. 77, 79-80 (Comm. 1989). In evaluating the evidence, “[t]ruth is to be determined not by the quantity of evidence alone but by its quality.” *Id.* Thus, in adjudicating the application pursuant to the preponderance of the evidence standard, the director must examine each piece of evidence for relevance, probative value, and credibility, both individually and within the context of the totality of the evidence, to determine whether the fact to be proven is probably true.

Even if the director has some doubt as to the truth, if the applicant submits relevant, probative, and credible evidence that leads the director to believe that the claim is “probably true” or “more likely than not,” the applicant has satisfied the standard of proof. *See U.S. v. Cardozo-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421 (1987) (defining “more likely than not” as a greater than 50 percent probability of something occurring). If the director can articulate a material doubt, it is appropriate for the director to either request additional evidence or, if that doubt leads the director to believe that the claim is probably not true, deny the application or petition.

The sole issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has furnished sufficient credible evidence to meet his burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that he has resided in the United States continuously since before January 1, 1982 and throughout the requisite period.

The applicant furnished six affidavits. [REDACTED] claims in his affidavit that he is the applicant’s father and that he brought the applicant to the United States in March 1981. [REDACTED] further lists the addresses where he and his family resided in the United States during the requisite period. The other five affiants generally state that the applicant has resided continuously in the United States since 1979 or 1981. None of the affiants state with specificity the events and circumstances under which the applicant resided in the United States, whether he went to school, to the doctor, whether he worked at odd jobs, played sports, or state how the applicant spent his time in the United States. Simply asserting that the applicant has resided in the United States continuously throughout the requisite period does not establish the reliability of the assertion and is not sufficient to establish his eligibility for the benefit sought. The affidavits lack probative value as evidence of the applicant’s continuous residence in the United States since 1981.

On appeal, the applicant furnishes two additional affidavits as evidence of his continuous residence in the United States since before January 1, 1982. Both affiants generally state that the applicant first came to the United States in 1981 when he was about nine years old to live with his father. Both claim they saw the applicant on a regular basis, but neither states with specificity what the applicant did in the United States with his time, friendships, activities, or interaction with the community during the requisite period. Neither offers other particulars of the applicant’s residence in the United States during this period. To be considered probative and credible, witness affidavits must do more than simply state that an affiant knows an applicant and

that the applicant has lived in the United States for a specific time period. Their content must include sufficient detail from a claimed relationship to indicate that the relationship probably did exist and that the witness does, by virtue of that relationship, have knowledge of the facts alleged. The additional affidavits are not probative as evidence of the applicant's continuous residence in the United States since before January 1, 1982.

A review of the record reveals that the applicant was about nine years of age in 1981. The AAO notes that the applicant submitted no school, medical, or immunization records. Nor did he provide any evidence from the witnesses that show they were in the United States during the requisite period. Taken individually and together, the evidence submitted in this proceeding does not establish that the applicant entered the United States before January 1, 1982 and that he has continuously resided in the United States throughout the requisite period.

The lack of detail in the affidavits coupled with the absence of credible and probative documentation to corroborate the applicant's claim of continuous residence for the entire requisite period seriously detract from the credibility of his claim. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5), the inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility and amenability to verification. Given the lack of credible supporting documentation, it is concluded that the applicant has failed to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he has continuously resided in an unlawful status in the United States for the requisite period as required under both 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5) and *Matter of E- M--*, *supra*. The applicant is, therefore, ineligible for temporary resident status under section 245A of the Act on this basis.

Further, the record shows that the applicant was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI), a class B misdemeanor, on May 17, 1997. He was later found guilty of the charge by Dallas County, Texas, Criminal Court on June 10, 1997. This misdemeanor conviction does not affect the applicant's eligibility for temporary residence.

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