

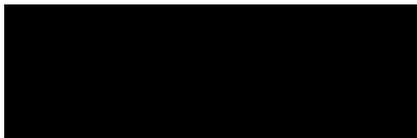
identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

PUBLIC COPY



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

A2



FILE:



Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA

Date:

JUL 18 2005

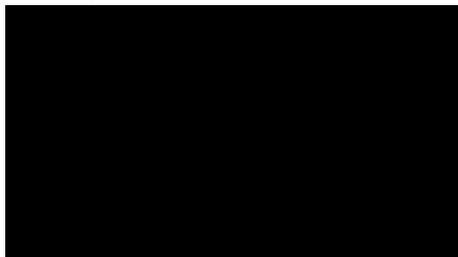
IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION: Application for Permanent Residence Pursuant to Section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act of November 2, 1966 (P.L. 89-732)

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. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Miami, Florida, who certified his decision to the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) for review. The District Director's decision will be withdrawn and the application will be approved.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Brazil who filed this application for adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident under section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA) of November 2, 1966. This Act provides, in pertinent part:

[T]he status of any alien who is a native or citizen of Cuba and who has been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States subsequent to January 1, 1959 and has been physically present in the United States for at least one year, may be adjusted by the Attorney General, (now the secretary of Homeland Security, (Secretary)), in his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe, to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien makes an application for such adjustment, and the alien is eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is admissible to the United States for permanent residence. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to the spouse and child of any alien described in this subsection, regardless of their citizenship and place of birth, who are residing with such alien in the United States.

The District Director determined that the applicant was not eligible for adjustment of status as the spouse of a native or citizen of Cuba, pursuant to section 1 of the CAA of November 2, 1966, because he entered into the marriage for the primary purpose of circumventing the immigration laws of the United States. *See District Director Decision* dated November 17, 2004.

The record reflects that on September 7, 2002, at Lake Worth, Florida, the applicant married [REDACTED], a native and citizen of Cuba whose immigration status was adjusted to that of a lawful permanent resident of the United States, pursuant to section 1 of the CAA. Based on that marriage, on January 21, 2003, the applicant filed for adjustment of status under section 1 of the CAA.

On August 26, 2004, the applicant and her spouse, Mr. [REDACTED] appeared before Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) for an interview regarding the application for permanent residence. The applicant and Mr. [REDACTED] were each placed under oath and questioned separately regarding their domestic life and shared experiences. Citing *Matter of Laureano*, 19 I&N Dec. 1 (BIA 1983), and *Matter of Phillis*, 15 I&N Dec. 385 (BIA 1975), the District Director maintained that when there is reason to doubt the bona fides of a marital relationship, evidence must be presented to show that the marriage was not entered into solely for the purpose of circumventing the immigration laws of the United States. The District Director determined that the discrepancies encountered during the interview, and the lack of material evidence presented, strongly suggested that the applicant and his spouse entered into a marriage for the primary purpose of circumventing the immigration laws of the United States.

On notice of certification, the applicant was offered an opportunity to submit evidence in opposition to the District Director's findings. In response to the notice of certification, counsel submits a brief and documentation in an attempt to establish the bona fide nature of the couple's relationship. In addition he states that due to the inappropriate manner in which the interview was conducted the previous attorney requested that the interview be terminated and requested to see a supervisor in order to assign the case to another officer. Counsel further asserts that the interviewing officer ignored the documentation the couple presented during their interview. Counsel

submits documentary evidence that shows that the applicant and his wife live together and have resided together as man and wife. In addition counsel submits an affidavit from the previous attorney of record in which he states that the immigration officer began the interview with the applicant by suggesting that she withdraw her application and threatening her with criminal prosecutions. He further states that he met with a supervisor, requested that another immigration officer be assigned to the case and was promised that the supervisor would meet with the interviewing officer to discuss the matter.

In his brief counsel addresses the inconsistent statements made by the applicant and Mr. [REDACTED] during the interview and attributes these inconsistencies to the aggressive and intimidating manner in which the interview was conducted. Counsel submits numerous pictures of the couple, along with family and friends, tax returns, auto insurance, a residential lease, utility bills and cancelled checks, showing both the applicant's and her husband's names on the documents in order to establish the bona fide nature of their marriage.

Counsel's explanation of the inconsistencies in the couple's testimony and a review of the recently submitted documentation and the documentation in the record of proceedings, when considered in its totality, establishes that the applicant and her spouse reside together as husband and wife.

Pursuant to section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361, the burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he is eligible for adjustment of status. Here, the applicant has met that burden. Accordingly, the District Director's decision will be withdrawn, and the application will be approved.

ORDER: The District Director's decision is withdrawn. The application is approved.