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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)  
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090  
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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DATE: Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

File:

IN RE: **MAR 19 2012** Petitioner:

PETITION: Petition for Immigrant Abused Spouse Pursuant to Section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



**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 Director, Vermont Service Center, denied the immigrant visa petition. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be summarily dismissed. The petition will remain denied.

The petitioner seeks immigrant classification pursuant to section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“the Act”), 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii), as an alien battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by a United States citizen.

The director denied the petition, after determining that the petitioner had not established she had a qualifying relationship with a United States citizen (USC) or that she is eligible for immediate relative classification based on a qualifying relationship.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. §103.3(a)(1)(v) states, in pertinent part:

An officer to whom an appeal is taken shall summarily dismiss any appeal when the party concerned fails to identify specifically any erroneous conclusion of law or statement of fact for the appeal.

The petitioner timely submitted a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, on September 23, 2011. The record contains the petitioner and the USC spouse’s divorce decree, indicating that the couple divorced on August 18, 2003. The Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er) or Special Immigrant was filed on October 19, 2010. On the Form I-290B, neither counsel nor the petitioner provides a statement or any other evidence for consideration.

The director in this matter set out the deficiencies<sup>1</sup> in the evidence the petitioner previously submitted in support of her claim. We concur with the director’s assessment of the relevant evidence. The language of the statute clearly provides that to remain eligible for classification despite no longer being married to a United States citizen, an alien must have been the bona fide spouse of a United States citizen “within the past two years” and demonstrate a connection between the abuse and the legal termination of the marriage. 204(a)(1)(A)(iii)(II)(aa)(CC)(ccc) of the Act. The petitioner has not provided evidence that she meets this essential requirement. There is no exception to the requirement that the Form I-360 must be filed within two years of the termination of the marriage. The record on appeal does not include any evidence or argument that overcomes the director’s determination. The petitioner fails to identify specifically an erroneous conclusion of law or a statement of fact in this proceeding. Accordingly, the appeal must be summarily dismissed pursuant to the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(1)(v).

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<sup>1</sup> The director observed, without detailing the deficiencies of the record, that the petitioner had also failed to establish: she had been subjected to battery or extreme cruelty perpetrated by her former USC spouse; or she is a person of good moral character. As the director did not detail the deficiencies regarding these issues, these issues will not be discussed.

In visa petition proceedings, the burden of proving eligibility for the benefit sought remains entirely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, that burden has not been met.

**ORDER:** The appeal is summarily dismissed. The petition remains denied.