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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

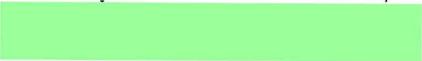


Date: **FEB 26 2013**

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

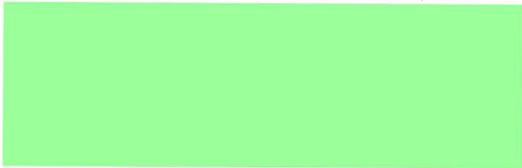


IN RE: Self-Petitioner:



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:

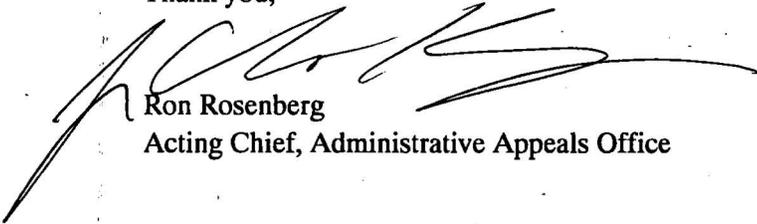


INSTRUCTIONS:

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 AAO inappropriately applied the law 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 in accordance with the instructions on Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or motion, with a fee of \$630, or a request for a fee waiver. The specific requirements for filing such a request can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. **Do not file any motion directly with the AAO.** 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,



Ron Rosenberg
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Vermont Service Center director denied the immigrant visa petition. On appeal, the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) remanded the matter for further action. The matter is now before the AAO upon certification of the director's subsequent, adverse decision. The decision of the director will be affirmed and the petition will remain denied.

Section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Act provides that an alien who is the spouse of a United States citizen may self-petition for immigrant classification if the alien demonstrates that he or she entered into the marriage with the United States citizen spouse in good faith and that during the marriage, the alien or a child of the alien was battered or subjected to extreme cruelty perpetrated by the alien's spouse. In addition, the alien must show that he or she is eligible to be classified as an immediate relative under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Act, resided with the abusive spouse, and is a person of good moral character. Section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii)(II) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1154(a)(1)(A)(iii)(II).

Section 204(a)(1)(J) of the Act states, in pertinent part:

In acting on petitions filed under clause (iii) or (iv) of subparagraph (A) . . . or in making determinations under subparagraphs (C) and (D), the [Secretary of Homeland Security] shall consider any credible evidence relevant to the petition. The determination of what evidence is credible and the weight to be given that evidence shall be within the sole discretion of the [Secretary of Homeland Security].

Here, the director initially denied the petition on September 18, 2007, because the petitioner did not establish that his spouse was a U.S. citizen, the requisite qualifying relationship or that he was eligible for immigrant classification based on said relationship, or that he married his spouse in good faith. In the April 2, 2009 decision on appeal, the AAO concurred with the director's determination but remanded the petition for issuance of a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID) in compliance with the former regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(c)(3)(ii) (as in effect at the time the petition was filed). Upon remand, the director issued a NOID on February 19, 2010, which informed the petitioner that he had not submitted sufficient evidence to meet the qualifying relationship, eligibility for immigrant classification, or good-faith entry into the marriage requirements. The NOID granted the petitioner 33 days to submit a response and any additional evidence. The petitioner did not respond to the NOID. Accordingly, the director denied the petition on January 16, 2013 on the grounds cited in the NOID and certified the decision to the AAO for review.

The director's Notice of Certification informed the petitioner that he had 30 days to submit a brief to the AAO. To date, the AAO has received nothing further from the petitioner. Accordingly, the January 16, 2013 decision of the director denying the petition is affirmed. In our prior decision, incorporated here by reference, we fully discussed the pertinent facts and relevant evidence submitted below. The petitioner has not demonstrated that he had a qualifying spousal relationship with a U.S. citizen, his eligibility for immediate relative classification based on such a relationship, and his entry into the marriage in good faith. The petitioner is consequently ineligible for immigrant classification under section 204(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Act and his petition must be denied.

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In these proceedings, the petitioner bears the burden of proof to establish his eligibility by a preponderance of the evidence. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361; *Matter of Chawathe*, 25 I&N Dec. 369, 375 (AAO 2010). Here, that burden has not been met.

ORDER: The director's decision of January 16, 2013, is affirmed. The petition remains denied.