

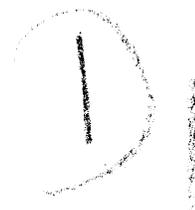
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20529

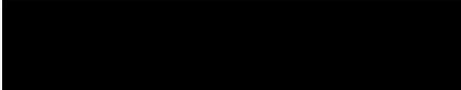


U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

PUBLIC COPY



FILE: EAC 03 135 50248 Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: **SEP 21 2005**

IN RE: Petitioner: 
Beneficiary:

PETITION: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

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. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The service center director denied the nonimmigrant visa petition and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed. The petition will be denied.

The petitioner is an individual who seeks to employ the beneficiary as a home school educator/tutor/instructor. The petitioner endeavors to classify the beneficiary as a nonimmigrant worker in a specialty occupation pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b).

The director denied the petition because the proffered position does not qualify as a specialty occupation. On appeal, the petitioner submits a brief indicating that the offered position qualifies as a specialty occupation.

The issue to be discussed in this proceeding is whether the proffered position qualifies as a specialty occupation.

Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), provides, in part, for the classification of qualified nonimmigrant aliens who are coming temporarily to the United States to perform services in a specialty occupation.

Section 214(i)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1184(i)(1), defines the term "specialty occupation" as an occupation that requires:

- (A) theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge, and
- (B) attainment of a bachelor's or higher degree in the specific specialty (or its equivalent) as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

The term "specialty occupation" is further defined at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(ii) as:

[A]n occupation which requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge in fields of human endeavor including, but not limited to, architecture, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and health, education, business specialties, accounting, law, theology, and the arts, and which requires the attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher in a specific specialty, or its equivalent, as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A), to qualify as a specialty occupation, the position must meet one of the following criteria:

- (1) A baccalaureate or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum requirement for entry into the particular position;
- (2) The degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations or, in the alternative, an employer may show that its particular position is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree;

- (3) The employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position; or
- (4) The nature of the specific duties are so specialized and complex that knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree.

Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) interprets the term "degree" in the criteria at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A) to mean not just any baccalaureate or higher degree, but one in a specific specialty that is directly related to the proffered position.

The record of proceeding before the AAO contains: (1) the Form I-129 and supporting documentation; (2) the director's request for additional evidence; (3) the petitioner's response to the director's request; (4) the director's denial letter; and (5) the Form I-290B with counsel's brief. The AAO reviewed the record in its entirety before issuing its decision.

The petitioner is seeking the beneficiary's services as a home school educator/tutor/instructor. Evidence of the beneficiary's duties includes the I-129 petition with attachment and the petitioner's response to the director's request for evidence. According to this evidence the beneficiary would:

- Instruct a one year old child, and a four year old child having severe systematic atopic dermatitis and food allergies, in Bulgarian, Italian, French, and Dutch language, culture, and civilization;
- Provide instruction in the arts and music, teaching violin and drums; and
- Monitor the children's medical conditions, administer medicine, and monitor their dietary intake.

The petitioner states that she requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree for entry into the proffered position, but does not state that the degree need be in any particular educational discipline. The beneficiary possesses a medical degree from the Medical Academy of Sofia, Bulgaria. That degree was not evaluated by a credentials evaluation service to determine its educational equivalency in the United States.

Upon review of the record, the petitioner has failed to establish that the proffered position qualifies as a specialty occupation. The AAO routinely consults the Department of Labor's *Occupational Outlook Handbook (Handbook)* for information about the duties and educational requirements of particular occupations. The duties of the proffered position, though presented in vague and generic terms, appears to be that of a pre-school teacher in a home school environment, and child care provider. The *Handbook* notes that all 50 States and the District of Columbia require public school teachers to be licensed. Licensure, however, is not required for teachers in private schools or home school environments. All States require public school general education teachers to have a bachelor's degree and to have completed an approved teacher training program with a prescribed number of subject and education credits, as well as supervised practice teaching. The education and teacher training requirements, however, do not apply to teachers in private school or home school settings. Documentation provided by the petitioner indicates that the Commonwealth of Virginia permits parents to home school their children if the parent: (1) holds a baccalaureate degree in any subject from an accredited institution of higher learning; or (2) is a teacher of qualifications prescribed by the Board

of Education; or (3) has enrolled the child or children in a correspondence course approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction; or (4) provides a program of study or curriculum which, in the judgment of the division superintendent, includes the standards of learning approved by the Board of Education for language arts and mathematics, and provides evidence that the parent is able to provide an adequate education for the child. Thus, there is no requirement that the beneficiary have a license, teacher training, or a degree in any specific specialty to enter into the proffered position. The petitioner has failed to establish the criterion listed at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A)(1).

The petitioner does assert that a degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations, but offers no evidence in this regard. Simply going on the record without supporting documentary evidence is not sufficient for purposes of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *Matter of Soffici*, 22 I&N Dec. 158, 165 (Comm. 1998) (citing *Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972)). The petitioner has failed to establish the referenced criterion at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A)(2).

The petitioner has not established that she normally requires a degree in a specific specialty for the offered position as this is the first time that she has sought to employ anyone in this capacity. Thus, the petitioner has not established the criterion at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A)(3).

The nature of the teaching duties is not so specialized or complex that knowledge required to perform them is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree in a specific specialty, nor are the duties so complex or unique that they can be performed only by individuals with a degree in a specific specialty. The duties to be performed are routine in the industry for educators/tutors/instructors in a home school environment. The petitioner has failed to establish either of the referenced criteria at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A)(2) or (4).

Finally the duties of a childcare provider (administering medication to children, monitoring children's medical conditions and dietary intake) are routinely performed by individuals with less than a baccalaureate level education. The *Handbook* notes that childcare workers generally can obtain employment with a high school diploma and little or no experience. Further, the petitioner has not established that a degree requirement is common in the industry for such workers, that the childcare duties of the position are so specialized or complex that knowledge required to perform them is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree in a specific specialty, or that the childcare duties of the position are so complex or unique that they can be performed only by individuals with a degree in a specific specialty. The petitioner does not state that she normally requires a degree in a specific specialty to perform the duties of a childcare worker. The petitioner has failed to establish any of the criteria of 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A) with regard to the duties of the offered position relating to childcare.

The petitioner has failed to establish that the offered position meets any of the criteria listed at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A). Accordingly, the AAO shall not disturb the director's denial of the petition.

The petitioner requested oral argument in these proceedings. The regulations provide that the requesting party must explain in writing why oral argument is necessary. Furthermore, Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) has the sole authority to grant or deny a request for oral argument and will grant argument

only in cases involving unique factors or issues of law that cannot be adequately addressed in writing. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(b). In this instance, the petitioner has identified no unique factors or issues of law to be resolved. The written record of proceedings fully represents the facts and issues in this case. Consequently, the request for oral argument is denied.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The petitioner has not sustained that burden and the appeal shall accordingly be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed. The petition is denied.