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U.S. Citizenship
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FILE:

EAC 07 088 50144

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

JAN 11 2008

IN RE:

Petitioner:

Beneficiary:



PETITION: Petition for Alien Fiancé(e) Pursuant to § 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(K)

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, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now on appeal before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO). The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a citizen of the United States who seeks to classify the beneficiary, a native and citizen of Russia, as the fiancée of a United States citizen pursuant to § 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(K).

Section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Act defines "fiancé(e)" as:

An alien who is the fiancée or fiancé of a citizen of the United States and who seeks to enter the United States solely to conclude a valid marriage with the petitioner within ninety days after entry. . . .

Section 214(d) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(d), states in pertinent part that a fiancé(e) petition:

shall be approved only after satisfactory evidence is submitted by the petitioner to establish that the parties have previously met in person within two years before the date of filing the petition, have a bona fide intention to marry, *and are legally able and actually willing to conclude a valid marriage* [emphasis added] in the United States within a period of ninety days after the alien's arrival

It was held in *Matter of Souza*, 14 I&N Dec. 1 (Reg. Comm. 1972) that both the petitioner and beneficiary must be unmarried and free to conclude a valid marriage at the time the petition is filed. The director denied the petition after determining that the petitioner had failed to submit documentary evidence that he was legally free to marry the beneficiary at the time the petition was filed. *Director's Decision*, dated July 26, 2007. The petitioner filed the Petition for Alien Fiancé(e) (Form I-129F) with Citizenship and Immigration Services on February 8, 2007. The petitioner's divorce decree shows that his divorce was final on May 3, 2007, approximately three months after he filed the Form I-129F.

On appeal, the petitioner states that he thought that his divorce was final when he filed the Form I-129F. *Form I-290B*, dated July 30, 2007. He submits court documentation to support this claim. However, the fact remains that at the time of filing the petition was not legally free to marry the petitioner. Therefore, the appeal will be dismissed.

The denial of this petition is without prejudice. Now that the petitioner's divorce is final, he may file a new I-129F petition on the beneficiary's behalf in accordance with the statutory requirements.

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 met that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.