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20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000
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U.S. Citizenship
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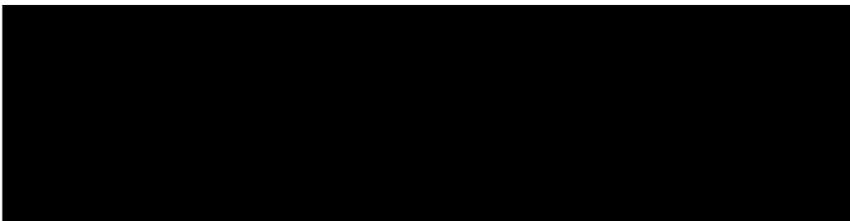


FILE: [REDACTED] Office: SEATTLE (YAKIMA) WA Date: AUG 17 2007

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

APPLICATION: Application for Certificate of Citizenship under section 301(a)(7) of the former Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1401(a)(7).

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

[REDACTED]

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Seattle (Yakima), Washington and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record reflects that the applicant was born in Mexico on October 9, 1975. The applicant's mother, [REDACTED] was born in Imperial, California on April 22, 1929, and was a U.S. citizen. The applicant's mother died in Mexico on January 10, 1979. The applicant's father was born in Mexico on February 16, 1940 and is not a U.S. citizen. The record contains the applicant's parents' marriage certificate indicating that the marriage took place on March 21, 1966 in Mexico. The applicant seeks a certificate of citizenship under section 301(a)(7) of the former Immigration and Nationality Act (the former Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1401(a)(7), based on the claim that she acquired U.S. citizenship at birth through her U.S. citizen mother.

The district director concluded the applicant had failed to establish that her mother had the required physical presence in the United States. The district director further found that the applicant was ineligible for citizenship under the provisions of the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (the CCA), section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1431, because she was over 18 years old when the CCA became effective and was not admitted as a lawful permanent resident.

On appeal, the applicant submits additional documentation purporting to establish her mother's physical presence in the United States prior to her birth. The documentation submitted on appeal to establish physical presence consists of a photograph of the applicant's mother in El Centro, California, a letter from the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and letters from [REDACTED], from the applicant, and from [REDACTED] (the applicant's sister). The appeal is also accompanied by affidavits from other family members.

"The applicable law for transmitting citizenship to a child born abroad when one parent is a U.S. citizen is the statute that was in effect at the time of the child's birth." *Chau v. Immigration and Naturalization Service*, 247 F.3d 1026, 1029 (9th Cir. 2000) (citations omitted). The applicant in the present matter was born in 1975. Section 301(a)(7) of the former Act therefore applies to the present case.

Section 301(a)(7) of the former Act states that the following shall be nationals and citizens of the United States at birth:

[A] person born outside the geographical limits of the United States and its outlying possessions of parents one of whom is an alien, and the other a citizen of the United States who, prior to the birth of such person, was physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than ten years, at least five of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years: *Provided*, That any periods of honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States by such citizen parent may be included in computing the physical presence requirements of this paragraph.

The AAO finds that the applicant has established that her mother was born in the United States and was a United States citizen. The AAO cannot conclude, however, that the applicant has established the required ten years of physical presence, at least five of which were after attaining the age of 14.

The record contains a photograph of the applicant's mother as an infant, taken in El Centro, California. The photograph does not establish that the applicant was physically present for 10 years, five of which while over

[REDACTED]

the age of 14. The record also contains a letter from the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe which states that the applicant's grandparents are "from Imperial, California" or "from the [United States]." This letter establishes, at best, that the applicant's mother was at one point present in the United States.

Additionally, the record contains a letter from [REDACTED] who was born in Arizona in 1936 and is the applicant's cousin. [REDACTED] states that her own mother (who is now deceased) informed her that her family (including the applicant's mother) resided in Imperial County in the 1920's and moved to Mexico in 1950. The information provided in [REDACTED]'s letter suggests that the applicant's mother was present in the United States. The letter is not specific with respect to dates and is not based on personal information but on her "recollection from conversations with [her] mother." The AAO finds that the letter fails to establish that the applicant's mother was physically present in the United States for the required period of 10 years, five of which while over the age of 14.

The record also contains an affidavit executed by the applicant stating that her mother lived in California until she was in her 20s, but indicating that she has "no recollection" of her mother's residence since the applicant's mother died when the applicant was four years old. There is also an affidavit executed by the applicant's sister stating that her mother lived in California until she was 21.

The record also contains an affidavit executed by [REDACTED] attesting that she personally saw the applicant's mother as a baby and suggesting that she was "acquainted" with her "in early teenage [years][sic]." [REDACTED] was a teenager when the applicant's mother was born. The affidavit does not establish that the applicant's mother was physically present in the United States for the required period of time.

Finally, the affidavits executed by other family members also do not contain sufficient detail or information to support a finding that the applicant's mother was physically present in the United States for the required period of time.

The AAO notes "[t]here must be strict compliance with all the congressionally imposed prerequisites to the acquisition of citizenship." *Fedorenko v United States*, 449 U.S. 490, 506 (1981). 8 C.F.R. § 341.2(c) provides that the burden of proof shall be on the claimant to establish the claimed citizenship by a preponderance of the evidence. In order to meet this burden, the applicant must submit relevant, probative and credible evidence to establish that the claim is "probably true" or "more likely than not." *Matter of E-M-*, 20 I&N Dec. 77, 79-80 (Comm. 1989). The applicant in the present case has not met her burden and the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.