U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090

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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

[redacted]

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FILE: [redacted] Office: NEWARK, NJ Date: OCT 08 2010

IN RE: Applicant: [redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Certificate of Citizenship under Former Section 321 of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. § 1432 (repealed).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

SELF-REPRESENTED

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. The fee for a Form I-290B is currently $585, but will increase to $630 on November 23, 2010. Any appeal or motion filed on or after November 23, 2010 must be filed with the $630 fee. 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 application was denied by the Field Office Director, Newark, New Jersey. 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 on September 17, 1966 in Jamaica. The applicant's parents are and The applicant's parents were not married to each other. The applicant's father became a U.S. citizen upon his naturalization on November 18, 1983, when the applicant was 17 years old. The applicant's mother is not a U.S. citizen. The applicant was admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident on July 17, 1983, when he was 16 years old. The applicant presently seeks a certificate of citizenship pursuant to former section 321 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1432 (repealed).

The field office director determined that the applicant could not derive U.S. citizenship under former section 321 of the Act because only his father naturalized prior to his eighteenth birthday. The application was accordingly denied.

On appeal, the applicant maintains that he derived U.S. citizenship upon his father's naturalization because his parents were never married and his father had legal custody of him. *See* Applicant's Appeal Brief. The applicant claims that he was raised by his father and step-mother since 1981 in the United States. *Id.*

The applicable law for derivative citizenship purposes is "the law in effect at the time the critical events giving rise to eligibility occurred." *Minasyan v. Gonzales*, 401 F.3d 1069, 1075 (9th Cir. 2005). The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (the CCA), Pub. L. No. 106-395, 114 Stat. 1631 (Oct. 30, 2000), which took effect on February 27, 2001, amended sections 320 and 322 of the Act, and repealed section 321 of the Act. The provisions of the CCA are not retroactive, and the amended provisions of section 320 and 322 of the Act apply only to persons who were not yet 18 years old as of February 27, 2001. Because the applicant was over the age of 18 on February 27, 2001, he is not eligible for the benefits of the amended Act. *See Matter of Rodriguez-Tejedor,* 23 I&N Dec. 153 (BIA 2001). Former section 321 of the Act is therefore applicable in this case.

Former section 321 of the Act, stated, in pertinent part, that:

> (a) A child born outside of the United States of alien parents, or of an alien parent and a citizen parent who has subsequently lost citizenship of the United States, becomes a citizen of the United States upon fulfillment of the following conditions:
>
> > (1) The naturalization of both parents; or
> >
> > (2) The naturalization of the surviving parent if one of the parents is deceased; or

> (3) The naturalization of the parent having legal custody of the child when there has been a legal separation of the parents or the naturalization of the mother if the child was born out of wedlock and the paternity of the child has not been established by legitimation; and if-
>
> (4) Such naturalization takes place while said child is under the age of 18 years; and
>
> (5) Such child is residing in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission for permanent residence at the time of the naturalization of the parent last naturalized under clause (1) of this subsection, or the parent naturalized under clause (2) or (3) of this subsection, or thereafter begins to reside permanently in the United States while under the age of 18 years.

The record indicates that the applicant obtained lawful permanent residency and that his father naturalized in 1983. The applicant's eighteenth birthday was on September 17, 1984. The applicant, however, was born out of wedlock. Former section 321(a)(3) of the Act allows for the derivation of U.S. citizenship by a child born out of wedlock only upon the naturalization of the mother. *See Lewis v. Gonzales*, 481 F.3d 125, 130 (2nd Cir. 2007). The statute does not provide for derivation of U.S. citizenship by a child born out of wedlock upon the father's naturalization, even if the child was legitimated. The applicant's mother is not deceased and she is not a U.S. citizen. The applicant consequently did not derive citizenship under subsections (1) or (2) of former section 321 of the Act. The applicant therefore did not derive U.S. citizenship under former section 321 of the Act, or any other provision of law.

"There 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). The burden of proof in these proceedings is on the claimant to establish the claimed citizenship by a preponderance of the evidence. *See* Section 341 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1452; 8 CFR § 341.2. The applicant has not met his burden of proof, and his appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.