

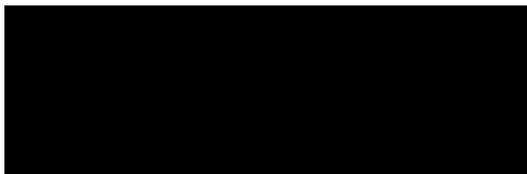
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
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FILE:

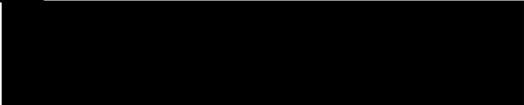


Office: HARLINGEN, TX

Date: MAR 07 2011

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION: Application for Certificate of Citizenship under Section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. §1433

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, with a fee of \$630. 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, Harlingen, Texas, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record reflects that the applicant was born on July 19, 2005 in Mexico. The applicant's [REDACTED] was born in the United States in [REDACTED]. The applicant's parents were married in Mexico in 2000. The applicant's mother is not a U.S. citizen. The applicant seeks a certificate of citizenship claiming that he derived U.S. citizenship through his father pursuant to section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1433.

The field office director denied the application upon finding that the applicant was not residing in his father's physical custody. The director noted the applicant's father's testimony stating that the applicant resided with his mother in Mexico, while he resided in the United States and had never resided in Mexico.

On appeal, the applicant's father submits an "Affidavit of Fact" explaining that the applicant is currently enrolled in school in Texas and residing with him in the United States.

The AAO reviews these proceedings *de novo*. See *Soltane v. DOJ*, 381 F.3d 143, 145 (3d Cir. 2004). Section 322 of the Act was amended by the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (CCA), Pub. L. No. 106-395, 114 Stat. 1631 (Oct. 30, 2000), and took effect on February 27, 2001. CCA § 104. The CCA benefits all persons who had not yet reached their eighteenth birthdays as of February 27, 2001. See *Matter of Rodriguez-Tejedor*, 23 I&N Dec. 153 (BIA 2001). Because the applicant was under 18 years old on February 27, 2001, he meets the age requirement for benefits under the CCA.

Section 322 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1433, provides that:

(a) A parent who is a citizen of the United States may apply for naturalization on behalf of a child born outside of the United States who has not acquired citizenship automatically under section 320. The Attorney General shall issue a certificate of citizenship to such applicant upon proof, to the satisfaction of the Attorney General, that the following conditions have been fulfilled:

(1) At least one parent is a citizen of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization.

(2) The United States citizen parent--

(A) has been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years;
or

(B) has a citizen parent who has been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than five years, at least two of which were after attaining the age of fourteen years.

(3) The child is under the age of eighteen years.

(4) The child is residing outside of the United States in the legal and physical custody of the applicant [citizen parent] (or, if the citizen parent is deceased, an individual who does not object to the application).

(5) The child is temporarily present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission, and is maintaining such lawful status.

(b) Upon approval of the application (which may be filed from abroad) and, except as provided in the last sentence of section 337(a), upon taking and subscribing before an officer of the Service within the United States to the oath of allegiance required by this Act of an applicant for naturalization, the child shall become a citizen of the United States and shall be furnished by the Attorney General with a certificate of citizenship.

(c) Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply to a child adopted by a United States citizen parent if the child satisfies the requirements applicable to adopted children under section 101(b)(1).

The record in this case reflects that the applicant is the child of a U.S. citizen. His parents were married in 2000. The record indicates that the applicant is currently enrolled in school in the United States. The record further suggests that the applicant's father resides in the United States.

Section 322(a)(4) of the Act, and the regulation at 8 C.F.R. §322.2(a)(4), require that the applicant be "currently residing outside the United States in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent." The record establishes that the applicant and his father are residing in the United States. The applicant is therefore not residing outside the United States in his father's custody. The applicant is therefore ineligible for citizenship under the cited provision.

A person may only obtain citizenship in strict compliance with the statutory requirements imposed by Congress. *INS v. Pangilinan*, 486 U.S. 875, 885 (1988). The applicant is statutorily ineligible for U.S. citizenship under section 322(a)(4) of the Act. His appeal will therefore be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.