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 and Immigration Services

(b)(6)

[redacted]

Date: NOV 20 2013 Office: NEW YORK, NY [redacted]

IN RE: Applicant: [redacted]

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

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

[redacted]

INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) in your case. This is a non-precedent decision. The AAO does not announce new constructions of law nor establish agency policy through non-precedent decisions.

Thank you,

Ron Rosenberg
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, New York, New York, and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The record reflects that the applicant was born on April 6, 2004 in Panama. Her mother, was born abroad May 11, 1982 and acquired U.S. citizenship at birth through her U.S. citizen parent, the applicant's grandfather. The applicant seeks a certificate of citizenship on her behalf pursuant to section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1433.

The district director denied the applicant's citizenship application finding that the applicant was not residing abroad in her mother's custody. On appeal, the applicant, through counsel, maintains that the applicant resides with her mother in Panama. *See* Statement of the Applicant's Father on Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion. The appeal is accompanied by additional evidence relating to the applicant's and her mother's residence.

The applicable law for derivative citizenship purposes is "the law in effect at the time the critical events giving rise to eligibility occurred." *See Minasyan v. Gonzales*, 401 F.3d 1069, 1075 (9th Cir. 2005). Section 322 of the Act, as amended by the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (the CCA), Pub. L. No. 106-395, 114 Stat. 1631 (Oct. 30, 2000), applies to this case. *See Matter of Rodriguez-Tejedor,* 23 I&N Dec. 153 (BIA 2001).

Section 322 of the Act 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).

Section 322 of the Act, therefore, provides for U.S. citizenship for children who are residing abroad and temporarily present in the United States pursuant to a lawful admission (in any lawful status). The applicant has established that her mother is a U.S. citizens and that her maternal grandfather was "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." At issue in this case is whether the applicant is residing abroad in her mother's legal and physical custody as is required by section 322(a)(4) of the Act. The AAO finds that she is. The documentary evidence in the record establishes that the applicant and her mother reside in Panama. Thus, the applicant is "residing outside of the United States in the legal and physical custody of [her citizen parent]" and is eligible for a certificate of citizenship under section 322 of the Act.

In application proceedings, it is the applicant's burden to establish eligibility for the immigration benefit sought. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, that burden has been met.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained. The matter is returned to the New York District Office for issuance of a certificate of citizenship.