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



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE:



Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date: JAN 06 2011

IN RE:



APPLICATION: Application for Replacement Naturalization Document under Section 338 of the
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1449

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 Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native of Nigeria and a naturalized citizen of the United States. He seeks to have his Certificate of Naturalization corrected under section 338 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1449, to reflect a change in his date of birth from January 12, 1980, to January 12, 1988.

The director reviewed the applicant's record and determined that a correction to his Certificate of Naturalization was not justified. Specifically, the director noted that the applicant had claimed the date of birth on the certificate at the time of naturalization. The application was denied accordingly. On appeal, the applicant requests that his Certificate of Naturalization be changed to conform to the corrected date of birth noted on page 5 of his Nigerian passport.

Section 338 of the Act provides the statutory authority relating to the contents of a Certificate of Naturalization. In addition, the regulations regarding the execution and issuance of Certificates of Naturalization are contained in 8 C.F.R. § 338.5, and provide, in part, that:

- (a) Whenever a Certificate of Naturalization has been delivered which does not conform to the facts shown on the application for naturalization, or a clerical error was made in preparing the certificate, an application for issuance of a corrected certificate, Form N-565, without fee, may be filed by the naturalized person.

....

- (e) The correction will not be deemed to be justified where the naturalized person later alleges that the name or date of birth which the applicant stated to be his or her correct name or date of birth at the time of naturalization was not in fact his or her name or date of birth at the time of the naturalization.

Based on the evidence in the record, the applicant has not established that his Certificate of Naturalization contains clerical errors attributable to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The birth date on the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization conforms to the birth date stated in his corrected Application for Naturalization. Additionally, the AAO observes that the record contains other documents with the [REDACTED] date of birth, including: his Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551); the applicant's Employment Authorization Card; the applicant's U.S. visa; a U.S. Armed Forces Identification Card; a Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service (Form N-426); a Military Fingerprint Authorization Form; two Form I-485 Applications to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status; several Form G-325 Biographic Information Forms; two Form I-864 Affidavits of Support; two Form I-693 Medical Examination Forms; two Form I-130 Petitions for Alien Relative; the applicant's Nigerian passport; a Certificate of Infant Dedication; a Statutory Declaration of Age; and an Iowa Marriage Certificate.

The AAO acknowledges that the record includes several documents showing the applicant's date of birth to be [REDACTED], including: a hand-written notation in his Nigerian passport; a Form G-325B Biographic Information Form, and a Form I-797C, Notice of Action. However, because the applicant acknowledged his birth date as January 12, 1980 on his naturalization application and there was no clerical error in the preparation of the certificate, USCIS has no authority to change the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 338.5.

Only a federal court with jurisdiction over the applicant's naturalization proceedings has the authority to order that an amendment be made to the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization, after a hearing in which the Government is provided an opportunity to present its position on the matter. 8 C.F.R. § 334.16(b). *See, e.g., Hussain v. USCIS*, 541 F.Supp. 2d 1082, 1084-87 (D.Minn. 2008) (explaining the applicable procedural requirements and standard of proof).

Specifically, 8 C.F.R. § 334.16(b) states in pertinent part:

Whenever an application is made to the court to amend a petition for naturalization after final action thereon has been taken by the court, a copy of the application shall be served upon the district director having administrative jurisdiction over the territory in which the court is located, in the manner and within the time provided by the rules of court in which [the] application is made. No objection shall be made to the amendment of a petition for naturalization after the petitioner for naturalization has been admitted to citizenship if the motion or application is to correct a clerical error arising from oversight or omission. A representative of the Service may appear at the hearing upon such application and be heard in favor of or in opposition thereto. When the court orders the petition amended, the clerk of court shall transmit a copy of the order to the district director for inclusion in the Service file.

Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed without prejudice to the filing of an appropriate action before the U.S. district court with jurisdiction over the applicant's naturalization proceedings.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.