

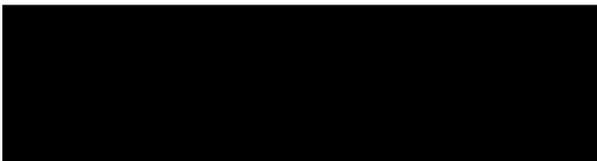
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)  
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090  
Washington, DC 20529-2090

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**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**



E<sub>3</sub>

FILE:



Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER

Date: JAN 20 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:

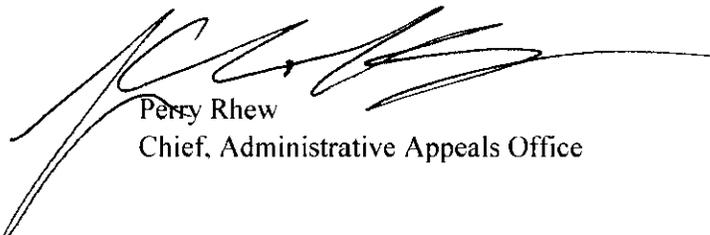
SELF-REPRESENTED

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. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native of Haiti and a naturalized citizen of the United States. She seeks to have her 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 her name from [REDACTED]

The director reviewed the applicant's record and determined that a correction to her Certificate of Naturalization was not justified. Specifically, the director noted that the applicant's name on her naturalization certificate conformed to the facts as shown on her application for naturalization. The application was denied accordingly.

On appeal, the applicant states that she used the name [REDACTED] when she came to the United States, and all of her documents reflect this name. In support of her claim, the applicant submits, among other things, a copy of her Haitian passport and several identification documents.

Section 343(c) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1454(c), states:

If the name of any naturalized citizen has, subsequent to naturalization, been changed by order of any court of competent jurisdiction, or by marriage, the citizen may make application for a new certificate of naturalization in the new name of such citizen. If the [Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary)] finds the name of the applicant to have been changed as claimed, the [Secretary] shall issue to the applicant a new certificate and shall notify the naturalization court of such action.

Because the applicant's request for a change to her name is not based on a court order or marriage, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) may not issue an amended Certificate of Naturalization under section 343(c) of the Act.

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 contained in the record, the applicant has not established that her Certificate of Naturalization contains clerical errors attributable to USCIS. The name on the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization conforms to the name change requested on her Application for Naturalization (Form N-400) and the Petition for Name Change.

The AAO acknowledges that the record includes copies of numerous documents showing the applicant's name as [REDACTED]. However, the applicant requested a name change to [REDACTED] on her naturalization application, and the court granted the applicant's request. Further, there was no clerical error in the preparation of the certificate. Accordingly, USCIS has no authority to change the applicant's Certificate of Naturalization. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 338.5(a), (e).

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.