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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  
and Immigration  
Services

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DATE: Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER FILE: 

**MAR 14 2012**  
IN RE: Applicant: 

APPLICATION: Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document (Form N-565)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

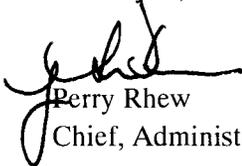
SELF-REPRESENTED

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, Nebraska 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 Iraq who derived U.S. citizenship from her mother as of November 19, 2008. The applicant seeks to correct her certificate of citizenship pursuant to sections 338 and 343 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. §§ 1449 and 1454, claiming that the date of birth listed on the certificate is incorrect.

The director determined that the applicant's certificate of citizenship contains the same date of birth indicated in the applicant's immigration file and that there was no authority to issue a replacement document in such a circumstance. The application was denied accordingly.

On appeal, the applicant maintains that the date of birth listed on her certificate is incorrect. The applicant claims that she was born on [REDACTED] 1993.

The applicant's certificate of citizenship indicates that her date of birth is [REDACTED] 1994. The applicant's Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, her Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, and her I-94, Arrival/Departure Record also list [REDACTED] 1994 as her date of birth.

Section 343 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1454, and the corresponding regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 343a provide no authority to change the date of birth on a certificate of citizenship. At most, the statute and regulations allow for issuance of a replacement certificate if the original document has been lost, mutilated or destroyed; or if a citizen's name has changed after naturalization due to marriage or a court order. *See* Section 343(a), (c) of the Act; 8 C.F.R. § 343a.1. None of these circumstances are present in the applicant's case.

Section 338 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1449, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, at 8 C.F.R. § 338.5, permit the correction of a certificate of naturalization in certain limited circumstances, but the applicant in this case did not naturalize, she derived citizenship through her mother and was, accordingly, issued a certificate of citizenship, not naturalization. Even if the regulations pertaining to the correction of naturalization certificates were extended to certificates of citizenship, the applicant would not meet the requirements for a corrected certificate.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 338.5 provides, in pertinent part:

- (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.

In this case, the record reveals no clerical error in the preparation of the applicant's certificate. The applicant's Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, lists [REDACTED] 1994 as the applicant's date of birth, the same date of birth that appears on her certificate of citizenship.

As noted above, neither the Act nor the regulations, provide for any authority for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to change the date of birth on a certificate of citizenship. Even if the regulations pertaining to the correction of naturalization certificates were extended to certificates of citizenship, the applicant would not meet the requirements for a corrected certificate. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 338.5. The applicant's appeal must therefore be dismissed.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.