

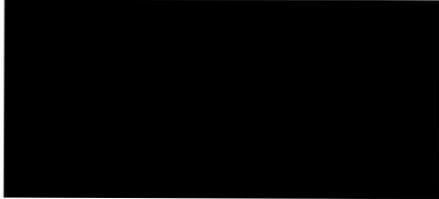
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



H2

FILE: [REDACTED]

Office: BANGKOK, THAILAND

Date: AUG 04 2009

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

APPLICATION: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under section 212(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(i).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. 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 \$585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen, as required by 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

John F. Grissom,
Acting Chief Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The waiver application was denied by the District Director, Bangkok, Thailand, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant, [REDACTED], is a native and citizen of Korea who was found to be inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(i), for seeking admission into the United States by fraud or willful misrepresentation.

The applicant sought a waiver of inadmissibility pursuant to section 212(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(i), so as to immigrate to the United States and live with his lawful permanent resident spouse. The district director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish that his bar to admission would impose extreme hardship on a qualifying relative, and denied the Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility (Form I-601) accordingly. *Decision of the District Director*, dated April 11, 2007. The applicant submitted a timely appeal.

On appeal, the applicant states that his wife is a lawful permanent resident of the United States and that he needs to be with her, and that his sister-in-law is gravely ill and he and his wife need to take over his sister-in-law's business.

The AAO will first address the finding of inadmissibility.

Section 212(a)(6)(C) of the Act provides, in pertinent part, that:

- (i) Any alien who, by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact, seeks to procure (or has sought to procure or has procured) a visa, other documentation, or admission into the United States or other benefit provided under this Act is inadmissible.

The record reflects that the applicant admitted to having submitted fraudulent documents in support of his non-immigrant visa application filed in 1992. Based on this evidence, the district director was correct in finding the applicant inadmissible under section 212(a)(6)(C) of the Act for willfully misrepresenting material facts so as to obtain a non-immigrant visa.

Section 212(i) of the Act provides a waiver for fraud and material misrepresentation. That section states that:

- (1) The Attorney General [now the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary)] may, in the discretion of the Attorney General [Secretary], waive the application of clause (i) of subsection (a)(6)(C) in the case of an alien who is the spouse, son or daughter of a United States citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General [Secretary] that the refusal of admission to the United States of such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such an alien.

The waiver under section 212(i) of the Act requires the applicant show that the bar to admission imposes an extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of the applicant. Hardship to an applicant is not included under section 212(i) of the Act. Thus, hardship to the applicant will be considered only to the extent that it results in hardship to a qualifying relative, who in this case is the applicant's lawful permanent resident spouse. Once extreme hardship is established, it is but one favorable factor to be considered in determining whether the Secretary should exercise discretion. *See Matter of Mendez-Morales*, 21 I&N Dec. 296, 301 (BIA 1996).

"Extreme hardship" is not a definable term of "fixed and inflexible meaning"; establishing extreme hardship is "dependent upon the facts and circumstances of each case." *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. 560, 565 (BIA 1999). The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) in *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez* lists the factors it considers relevant in determining whether an applicant has established extreme hardship pursuant to section 212(i) of the Act. The factors include the presence of a lawful permanent resident or United States citizen spouse or parent in this country; the qualifying relative's family ties outside the United States; the conditions in the country or countries to which the qualifying relative would relocate and the extent of the qualifying relative's ties in such countries; the financial impact of departure from this country; and significant conditions of health, particularly when tied to an unavailability of suitable medical care in the country to which the qualifying relative would relocate. *Id.* at 565-566. The BIA indicated that these factors relate to the applicant's "qualifying relative." *Id.* at 565-566.

In *Matter of O-J-O-*, 21 I&N Dec. 381, 383 (BIA 1996), the BIA stated that the factors to consider in determining whether extreme hardship exists "provide a framework for analysis," and that the "[r]elevant factors, though not extreme in themselves, must be considered in the aggregate in determining whether extreme hardship exists." It further stated that "the trier of fact must consider the entire range of factors concerning hardship in their totality" and then "determine whether the combination of hardships takes the case beyond those hardships ordinarily associated with deportation." (citing *Matter of Ige*, 20 I&N Dec. 880, 882 (BIA 1994).

Extreme hardship to the applicant's spouse must be established in the event that she joins the applicant to live in Korea, and alternatively, if she remains in the United States without him. A qualifying relative is not required to reside outside of the United States based on the denial of the applicant's waiver request.

In her hardship statement, the applicant's wife, _____ indicates that she cannot live in the United States without her husband. _____ conveys that she wants to take care of her 61-year-old sister, who has high-blood pressure and difficulty in seeing. _____ states that she needs her husband to help her in her sister's welding business. _____ conveys that she and her husband were trained in welding after they sold their business in Korea. She states that her sister tried to kill herself when her sister was swindled.

_____, the applicant's sister-in-law, states in a letter dated February 6, 2007, that her sister, _____, is presently in Korea because of the denial of the applicant's waiver application and that _____ needs the applicant. _____ states that she had three ovary surgeries and owes

\$85,000 in state and federal taxes. She states that she is 60 years old and has no children; and that she needs her sister and brother-in-law to help in her welding business, and that due to bad business she had to let workers go. [REDACTED] states that her welfare and that of her business requires her sister to be with her.

Courts have stated that “the most important single hardship factor may be the separation of the alien from family living in the United States,” and also, “[w]hen the BIA fails to give considerable, if not predominant, weight to the hardship that will result from family separation, it has abused its discretion.” *Salcido-Salcido v. INS*, 138 F.3d 1292, 1293 (9th Cir. 1998) (citations omitted); *Cerrillo-Perez v. INS*, 809 F.2d 1419, 1424 (9th Cir. 1987) (remanding to BIA) (“We have stated in a series of cases that the hardship to the alien resulting from his separation from family members may, in itself, constitute extreme hardship.”) (citations omitted).

However, in *Hassan v. INS*, 927 F.2d 465, 468 (9th Cir. 1991), the Ninth Circuit upheld the finding that deporting the applicant and separating him from his wife and child was not conclusive of extreme hardship as it “was not of such a nature which is unusual or beyond that which would normally be expected from the respondent's bar to admission.” (citing *Patel v. INS*, 638 F.2d 1199, 1206 (9th Cir.1980) (severance of ties does not constitute extreme hardship). As stated in *Perez v. INS*, 96 F.3d 390, 392 (9th Cir. 1996), “[e]xtreme hardship” is hardship that is “unusual or beyond that which would normally be expected” upon deportation and “[t]he common results of deportation or exclusion are insufficient to prove extreme hardship.” (citing *Hassan v. INS*, 927 F.2d 465, 468 (9th Cir.1991)).

The AAO is mindful of and sympathetic to the emotional hardship that is endured as a result of separation from a loved one. After a careful and thoughtful consideration of the record, however, the AAO finds that the situation of the applicant’s wife, if she were to remain in the United States, is typical to individuals separated as a result of removal and does not rise to the level of extreme hardship as required by the Act. The record before the AAO is insufficient to show that the emotional hardship, which will be endured by the applicant’s wife, is unusual or beyond that which is normally to be expected upon removal. *See Hassan and Perez, supra*.

If [REDACTED] were to join her husband to live in Korea, she indicates that she would experience extreme hardship because she would be unable to assist her sister in the United States. The AAO notes that [REDACTED] is not a qualifying relative for purposes of a waiver under section 212(i) of the Act, therefore, any hardship she experiences is not relevant to this matter. The applicant has not explained how [REDACTED] problems are causing his wife, the only qualifying relative, extreme hardship.

In considering the hardship factors raised here, both individually and in the aggregate, the AAO finds they fail to establish that the applicant’s spouse would experience extreme hardship if she were to remain in the United States without her husband, and alternatively, if she were to join him to live in Korea.

Having found the applicant statutorily ineligible for relief, no purpose would be served in discussing whether he merits a waiver as a matter of discretion.

In proceedings for application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility under section 212(i) of the Act, the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. *See* Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The applicant has not met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.