



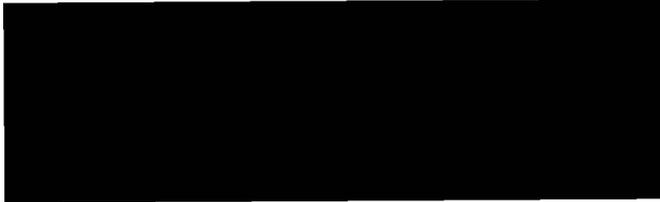
U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE:



Office: MEXICO CITY (CIUDAD JUAREZ)

Date:

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under Section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the  
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



**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).

Perry Rhew  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

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

The record reflects that the applicant is a native and citizen of Mexico who was found to be inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(i)(II), for having been unlawfully present in the United States for more than one year and seeking readmission within 10 years of his last departure from the United States. The record indicates that the applicant is married to a United States citizen and he is the beneficiary of an approved Petition for Alien Fiancé(e) (Form I-129F). The applicant seeks a waiver of inadmissibility pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v), in order to reside in the United States with his United States citizen wife and children.

The District Director found that the applicant failed to establish that extreme hardship would be imposed on the applicant's spouse and denied the Application for Waiver of Grounds of Excludability (Form I-601) accordingly. *Decision of the District Director*, dated December 6, 2005.

On appeal, the applicant, through counsel, claims that the applicant's wife would suffer extreme hardship. *See appeal brief*, filed January 16, 2007.

The record includes, but is not limited to, counsel's appeal brief, psychological and medical documents regarding the applicant's wife, and court dispositions for the applicant's arrests and convictions. The entire record was reviewed and considered in arriving at a decision on the appeal.

Section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Act provides, in pertinent part:

(B) Aliens Unlawfully Present.-

- (i) In general.-Any alien (other than an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence) who-
  - . . . .
  - (II) has been unlawfully present in the United States for one year or more, and who again seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal from the United States, is inadmissible.
  - . . . .
- (v) Waiver.-The Attorney General [now the Secretary of Homeland Security, "Secretary"] has sole discretion to waive clause (i) in the case of an immigrant who is the spouse or 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 [Secretary] that the refusal of admission to such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such alien.

The AAO notes that the record contains several references to the hardship that the applicant's children would suffer if the applicant were denied admission into the United States. Section 212(a)(9)(B)(i) of the Act provides that a waiver, under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, is applicable solely where the applicant establishes extreme hardship to his citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent. Unlike a waiver under section 212(h) of the Act, Congress does not mention extreme hardship to United States citizen or lawful permanent resident children. In the present case, the applicant's wife is the only qualifying relative, and hardship to the applicant's children will not be considered, except as it may cause hardship to the applicant's wife.

In the present application, the record indicates that the applicant initially entered the United States on July 1, 1989 without inspection. On April 28, 2003, the applicant was arrested for assault which causes bodily injury-married/cohab; however, the judge deferred judgment and ordered the applicant to attend domestic violence courses. On May 29, 2003, a Notice to Appear (NTA) was issued. On September 29, 2003, the applicant's United States citizen wife filed a Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130) on behalf of the applicant. On January 15, 2004, the applicant filed an Application for Cancellation of Removal and Adjustment of Status for Certain Nonpermanent Residents (Form EOIR-42B). On March 4, 2004, an immigration judge granted the applicant voluntary departure to depart the United States by July 2, 2004. On May 11, 2004, the applicant's wife filed a Form I-130 on behalf of the applicant. On June 30, 2004, the applicant departed the United States. On October 29, 2004, the applicant's charge for assault was dismissed. **On December 16, 2004, the applicant's Form I-130 was approved.** On December 6, 2005, the applicant filed an Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States after Deportation or Removal (Form I-212) and a Form I-601. On November 14, 2006, the District Director denied the Form I-601, finding that the applicant accrued more than a year of unlawful presence and failed to demonstrate extreme hardship to his United States citizen spouse.

The applicant accrued unlawful presence from April 1, 1997, the date of enactment of unlawful presence provisions under IIRIRA, until March 4, 2004, the date the immigration judge granted the applicant voluntary departure. The applicant is attempting to seek admission into the United States within 10 years of his June 30, 2004 departure from the United States. The applicant is, therefore, inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(9)(B)(II) of the Act for being unlawfully present in the United States for a period of more than one year.

A section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) waiver of the bar to admission resulting from section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act is dependent first upon a showing that the bar imposes an extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of the applicant. Hardship the applicant himself experiences upon removal is irrelevant to a section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) waiver proceeding. Once extreme hardship is established, it is but one favorable factor to be considered in the determination of whether the Secretary should exercise discretion. *See Matter of Mendez*, 21 I&N Dec. 296 (BIA 1996).

In *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. 560, 565-66 (BIA 1999), the Board of Immigration Appeals (Board) provided a list of factors it deemed relevant in determining whether an alien has established extreme hardship to a qualifying relative. 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.

In counsel's appeal brief filed January 16, 2007, counsel states that the applicant's wife is "experiencing grief stress and depression." In an evaluation dated December 13, 2006, [REDACTED] states the applicant's wife has dysthymic disorder and depression. The AAO notes that although the input of any mental health professional is respected and valuable, the AAO notes that the submitted assessment is based on one interview between the applicant's wife and a counselor. There was no evidence submitted establishing an ongoing professional relationship between the counselor and the applicant's wife. Moreover, the conclusions reached in the submitted assessment, being based on one interview, do not reflect the insight and elaboration commensurate with an established relationship with a mental health professional, thereby rendering the counselor's findings speculative and diminishing the assessment's value to a determination of extreme hardship. The AAO notes that medical documentation in the record establishes that the applicant's wife attempted suicide on November 5, 2002 after having a dispute with the applicant over their living situation; however, [REDACTED] states the applicant's wife denies "feeling suicidal or homicidal." Counsel states that "[i]f applicant's wife is to move to Mexico, she would be faced with the possibility of splitting her family. She is very young (18) and would suffer extreme hardship. She married at the age of fourteen to [the applicant] and has no employable skills." The AAO notes that the applicant's wife attended school until the eighth grade; however, it has not been established that she cannot continue her education in Mexico or that she has no transferable skills that would aid her in obtaining a job in Mexico. Additionally, the AAO notes that the applicant's wife speaks and writes in Spanish, and it has not been established that the applicant's wife has no family ties in Mexico. In fact, the AAO notes that the applicant's wife's parents are natives of Mexico. The AAO finds that the applicant failed to establish that his wife would suffer extreme hardship if she joined him in Mexico.

In addition, counsel does not establish extreme hardship to the applicant's wife if she remains in the United States, in close proximity to her family. [REDACTED] states the applicant's wife "expressed some concerns for her safety and reported that while traveling to Mexico to visit [the applicant] in 2004 she was mugged." As a United States citizen, the applicant's wife is not required to reside outside of the United States as a result of denial of the applicant's waiver request. [REDACTED] states the applicant's wife "is experiencing severe economic difficulties." The AAO notes that the applicant sends his wife money from his employment in Mexico. Additionally, the AAO notes that the record fails to demonstrate that the applicant will be unable to continue to contribute to his wife's financial wellbeing from a location outside of the United States. Moreover, the United States Supreme Court has held that the mere showing of economic detriment to qualifying family members is insufficient to warrant a finding of extreme hardship. *INS v. Jong Ha Wang*, 450 U.S. 139 (1981).

United States court decisions have repeatedly held that the common results of deportation or exclusion are insufficient to prove extreme hardship. See *Hassan v. INS*, 927 F.2d 465, 468 (9th Cir. 1991). For example, in *Matter of Pilch*, 21 I&N Dec. 627 (BIA 1996), the Board held that emotional hardship

caused by severing family and community ties is a common result of deportation and does not constitute extreme hardship. In addition, *Perez v. INS*, 96 F.3d 390 (9th Cir. 1996), held that the common results of deportation are insufficient to prove extreme hardship and defined extreme hardship as hardship that was unusual or beyond that which would normally be expected upon deportation. In *Hassan, supra*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held further that the uprooting of family and separation from friends does not necessarily amount to extreme hardship but rather represents the type of inconvenience and hardship experienced by the families of most aliens being deported.

A review of the documentation in the record fails to establish the existence of extreme hardship to the applicant's spouse caused by the applicant's inadmissibility to the United States. 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(a)(9)(B) of the Act, the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. *See* section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, the applicant has not met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.