

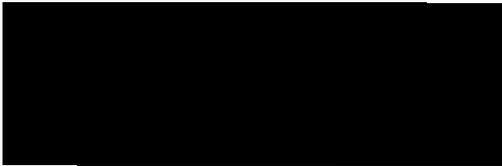
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



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Services

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FILE: Office: MEXICO CITY (CIUDAD JUAREZ) DATE: SEP 01 2009
(CDJ 2004 792 363)

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:

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, Mexico City, Mexico, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record establishes that the applicant, a native and citizen of Mexico, entered the United States without authorization in February 1998 and did not depart the United States until November 2005.¹ The applicant was thus 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.² The applicant seeks a waiver of inadmissibility in order to reside in the United States with his U.S. citizen spouse.

The district director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish that extreme hardship would be imposed on a qualifying relative and denied the Application for Waiver of Ground of Excludability (Form I-601) accordingly. *Decision of the District Director*, dated August 31, 2006.

In support of the appeal, the applicant's U.S. citizen spouse submits the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal (Form I-290B) and a letter, dated September 13, 2006. In addition, numerous follow up letters were sent by the applicant's spouse. Finally, in May 2007, the AAO received a letter and medical documentation from the applicant's spouse. The entire record was reviewed and considered in rendering this decision.

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

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.

....

¹ The AAO notes that both the district director and notes from the applicant's consular interview indicate that he initially entered in March 2001. All of the applicant's submissions indicate February 1998 so the AAO will accept this as his initial date of entry. This error is harmless as it does not affect his inadmissibility.

² The applicant does not contest the district director's finding of inadmissibility. Rather, he is requesting a waiver of inadmissibility.

(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 Attorney General (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...

In *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. 560, 565-66 (BIA 1999), the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) 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.

Relevant factors, though not extreme in themselves, must be considered in the aggregate in determining whether extreme hardship exists. In each case, the trier of fact must consider the entire range of factors concerning hardship in their totality and determine whether the combination of hardships takes the case beyond those hardships ordinarily associated with deportation. *Matter of O-J-O-*, 21 I&N Dec. 381, 383 (BIA 1996). (Citations omitted).

The applicant's U.S. citizen spouse contends that she will suffer emotional and financial hardship if the applicant's waiver request is not granted. In a declaration she states that she is experiencing emotional hardship due to the long and close relationship she has with her spouse. In addition, the applicant's spouse contends that she is suffering financial hardship due to the loss of the applicant's U.S. income; she contends that the referenced financial hardship is prohibiting her from traveling regularly to Mexico to visit the applicant. *Letter from [REDACTED] dated September 13, 2006.*

To support the emotional hardship noted by the applicant's spouse in her declaration, documentation of numerous medications prescribed to the applicant's spouse in 2007 have been provided. In addition, documentation confirming that the applicant's spouse was scheduled to receive individual therapy on May 2, 2007, and to be psychiatrically evaluated on May 16, 2007, was provided. *Patient Itinerary*, April 25, 2007. Finally, a Verification of Appointment letter has been submitted, confirming that the applicant's spouse had an appointment in the outpatient behavior health center with a therapist on April 25, 2007. *See Verification of Appointment*, dated April 25, 2007.

No documentation has been provided by the applicant's spouse's treating physician outlining in detail the applicant's spouse's current mental health situation, the severity of the situation, the relevance of the prescriptions to the applicant's spouse's mental health, the short and long-term

treatment plan, what type of assistance the applicant's spouse needs from the applicant specifically and what hardships she faces due to the applicant's continued absence. The documentation referenced above thus fails to establish that the applicant's spouse's continued mental health care and survival directly correlate to the applicant's physical presence in the United States. In addition, it has not been established that the applicant's spouse is unable to travel to Mexico, her native country, to visit her spouse on a regular basis. Going on record without supporting documentary evidence is not sufficient for purposes of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *Matter of Soffici*, 22 I&N Dec. 158, 165 (Comm. 1998) (citing *Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972)).

Although the depth of concern and anxiety over the applicant's inadmissibility is neither doubted or minimized, the fact remains that Congress provided for a waiver of inadmissibility only under limited circumstances. In nearly every qualifying relationship, whether between husband and wife or parent and child, there is a deep level of affection and a certain amount of emotional and social interdependence. While, in common parlance, the prospect of separation or involuntary relocation nearly always results in considerable hardship to individuals and families, in specifically limiting the availability of a waiver of inadmissibility to cases of "extreme hardship," Congress did not intend that a waiver be granted in every case where a qualifying relationship exists. The current state of the law, viewed from a legislative, administrative, or judicial point of view, requires that the hardship be above and beyond the normal, expected hardship involved in such cases. U.S. court decisions have repeatedly held that the common results of removal are insufficient to prove extreme hardship. See *Hassan v. INS*, 927 F.2d 465, 468 (9th Cir. 1991), *Perez v. INS*, 96 F.3d 390 (9th Cir. 1996); *Matter of Pilch*, 21 I&N Dec. 627 (BIA 1996) (holding that emotional hardship caused by severing family and community ties is a common result of deportation and does not constitute extreme hardship); *Matter of Shaughnessy*, 12 I&N Dec. 810 (BIA 1968) (holding that separation of family members and financial difficulties alone do not establish extreme hardship). "[O]nly in cases of great actual or prospective injury . . . will the bar be removed." *Matter of Ngai*, 19 I&N Dec. 245, 246 (BIA 1984).

As for the financial hardship referenced by the applicant's spouse, the AAO notes that courts considering the impact of financial detriment on a finding of extreme hardship have repeatedly held that, while it must be considered in the overall determination, "[e]conomic disadvantage alone does not constitute "extreme hardship." *Ramirez-Durazo v. INS*, 794 F.2d 491, 497 (9th Cir. 1986) (holding that "lower standard of living in Mexico and the difficulties of readjustment to that culture and environment . . . simply are not sufficient.").

No documentation has been provided that outlines the applicant's spouse's current financial situation, including income, expenses, assets and liabilities, and her needs. In addition, the record fails to indicate what specific contributions the applicant made to the household prior to his departure from the United States, to establish that his physical absence is causing extreme financial hardship to his spouse. Moreover, no objective documentation has been provided that confirms that the applicant's spouse would not be able to travel to Mexico, her native country, to visit the applicant due to the high costs of travel, as she contends in her declaration. Furthermore, it has not been established that the applicant is unable to obtain gainful employment abroad, thereby affording

him the opportunity to assist his spouse with respect to their finances. While the applicant's spouse may need to make adjustments with respect to her financial situation and the maintenance of the household while the applicant resides abroad due to his inadmissibility, it has not been shown that such adjustments would cause the applicant's spouse extreme hardship.

The AAO recognizes that the applicant's spouse will endure hardship as a result of continued separation from the applicant. However, her situation, if she remains in the United States, is typical to individuals separated as a result of removal and does not rise to the level of extreme hardship based on the record. The AAO concludes that based on the evidence provided, it has not been established that the applicant's U.S. citizen spouse is suffering extreme emotional and/or financial hardship due to the applicant's inadmissibility.

The AAO notes that extreme hardship to a qualifying relative must also be established in the event that he or she relocates abroad based on the denial of the applicant's waiver request. This criteria has not been addressed. As such, the applicant has failed to establish that his U.S. citizen spouse, a native of Mexico, would suffer extreme hardship were she to relocate abroad to reside with the applicant due to his inadmissibility.

As such, a review of the documentation in the record, when considered in its totality, reflects that the applicant has failed to show that his U.S. citizen spouse would suffer extreme hardship if he were not permitted to reside in the United States, and moreover, the applicant has failed to show that his U.S. citizen spouse would suffer extreme hardship were she to relocate abroad to reside with the applicant. The record demonstrates that the applicant's spouse faces no greater hardship than the unfortunate, but expected, disruptions, inconveniences, and difficulties arising whenever a spouse is removed from the United States or refused admission. Having found the applicant statutorily ineligible for relief, no purpose would be served in discussing whether the applicant merits a waiver as a matter of discretion.

In proceedings for application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. 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. The waiver application is denied.