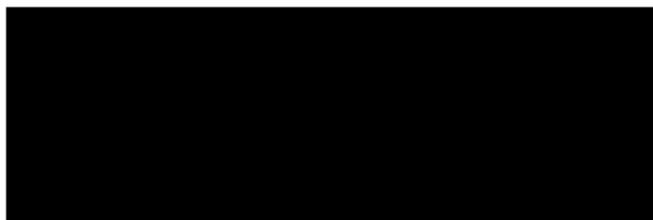


identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

PUBLIC COPY



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



H5

DATE: DEC 05 2011 OFFICE: SANTO DOMINGO

FILE: [REDACTED]

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:

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perry Rhey".

Perry Rhey
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The waiver application and a subsequent motion to reopen were denied by the Acting Field Office Director, Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, and the waiver application is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be remanded to the Field Office Director for further action.

The applicant is a native and citizen of the Dominican Republic who was found to be inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(i), for having attempted to procure admission to the United States through fraud or misrepresentation. The applicant is the spouse of a lawful permanent resident and is the beneficiary of an approved Form I-130 Petition for Alien Relative. The applicant seeks a waiver of inadmissibility pursuant to section 212(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(i), in order to join her lawful permanent resident spouse in the United States.

The Acting Field Office Director concluded the applicant had been found to have entered into a marriage for the sole purpose of procuring entry into the United States as an immigrant, was thus permanently inadmissible to the United States under section 204(c) of the Act, and denied the application accordingly. *See decision of Acting Field Office Director, July 1, 2009.* The subsequent motion to reopen was dismissed. *See decision of Acting Field Office Director, August 13, 2009.*

Section 204(c) of the Act states:

[N]o petition shall be approved if (1) the alien has previously . . . sought to be accorded, an immediate relative or preference status as the spouse of a citizen of the United States . . . by reason of a marriage determined by the Attorney General to have been entered into for the purpose of evading the immigration laws, or (2) the Attorney General has determined that the alien has attempted or conspired to enter into a marriage for the purpose of evading the immigration laws.

8 U.S.C. § 1154(c). The corresponding regulation provides:

Fraudulent marriage prohibition. Section 204(c) of the Act prohibits the approval of a visa petition filed on behalf of an alien who has attempted or conspired to enter into a marriage for the purpose of evading the immigration laws. The director will deny a petition for immigrant visa classification filed on behalf of any alien for whom there is substantial and probative evidence of such an attempt or conspiracy, regardless of whether that alien received a benefit through the attempt or conspiracy. Although it is not necessary that the alien have been convicted of, or even prosecuted for, the attempt or conspiracy, the evidence of the attempt or conspiracy must be contained in the alien's file.

8 C.F.R. § 204.2(a)(ii). A decision that section 204(c) of the Act applies must be made in the course of adjudicating a subsequent visa petition. *Matter of Rahmati*, 16 I&N Dec. 538, 359 (BIA 1978). USCIS may rely on any relevant evidence in the record, including evidence from prior

USCIS proceedings involving the beneficiary. *Id.* However, the adjudicator must come to his or her own, independent conclusion, and should not ordinarily give conclusive effect to determinations made in prior collateral proceedings. *Id.*; *Matter of Tawfik*, 20 I&N Dec. 166, 168 (BIA 1990).

The marriage certificate reflects that the applicant married U.S. Citizen [REDACTED] on May 6, 1996. Mr. [REDACTED] filed a Form I-130 Petition for Alien Relative on behalf of the applicant on June 26, 1996, which was approved on July 25, 1996. At their immigrant interview on January 28, 1998, the applicant was found ineligible for an immigrant visa for having entered into a marriage for immigration purposes. At that interview, Mr. [REDACTED] signed a confession stating that he and the applicant married for immigration purposes and that he desired to withdraw his Form I-130 petition. On December 5, 2000, the applicant and Mr. [REDACTED] divorced. Mr. [REDACTED] married the applicant on March 1, 2002 in the Dominican Republic. He filed the Form I-130 on her behalf on March 28, 2002, which was approved on June 9, 2005. On July 16, 2008, the applicant was refused an immigrant visa under section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Act for entering into a sham marriage with Mr. [REDACTED] for immigration purposes. The applicant filed the I-601 waiver application on March 30, 2009, which was denied on July 1, 2009. Because the record does not show that the applicant entered into her marriage to Mr. [REDACTED] in good faith and not for the purpose of evading the immigration laws of the United States, the AAO must conclude that the applicant's prior marriage is within the purview of section 204(c) of the Act as a marriage entered into for the purpose of evading the immigration laws. In that the applicant's prior marriage has been found to have been entered into for the purpose of evading the immigration laws of the United States, she is permanently barred from obtaining a visa to enter the United States. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1154(c). In light of this permanent bar, no purpose would be served in addressing the applicant's contentions regarding her eligibility for an extreme hardship waiver of inadmissibility under section 212(i) of the Act.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 205.2, the approval of an I-130 petition is revocable when the necessity for the revocation comes to the attention of the Service. The AAO notes that the I-130 petition has already been forwarded for revocation; however, the results of the revocation are not in the record. Therefore, the AAO remands the matter to the Field Office Director to await the results of the revocation proceedings. Should the approved Form I-130 petition be revoked, the applicant's Form I-601 will be moot and no further action will be required. In the alternative, should it be determined that the applicant is not subject to section 204(c) of the Act, and that the Form I-130 is not to be revoked, then the Field Office Director will return the file to the AAO for adjudication of the appeal of the Form I-601 waiver application.

ORDER: The matter is remanded to the Field Office Director for further proceedings consistent with this decision.