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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

PUBLIC COPY

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[redacted]

Date: JAN 3 0 2012 Office: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FILE: [redacted]

IN RE: Applicant: [redacted]

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

[redacted]

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 waiver application was denied by the Field Office Director, Los Angeles, California, 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)(6)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(i), for attempting to procure admission to the United States through fraud or the willful misrepresentation of a material fact. The record indicates that the applicant is married to a United States citizen and the mother of four United States citizen children. She is the beneficiary of an approved Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130). The applicant seeks a waiver of inadmissibility pursuant to section 212(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(i), in order to reside in the United States with her husband and children.

The Field Office Director found that the applicant had failed to establish that extreme hardship would be imposed on her qualifying relative and denied the Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility (Form I-601) accordingly. *Decision of the Field Office Director*, dated June 9, 2009.

On appeal, the applicant, through counsel, claims that United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) erred in denying the applicant's waiver application because "[t]he instant case falls within the jurisdiction of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals." *Form I-290B*, filed July 9, 2009. Additionally, counsel claims that USCIS "misstated" the facts of the case and "failed to take into consideration the cumulative hardships." *Id.*

The record includes, but is not limited to, counsel's appeal brief, statements from the applicant and her husband, letters of support for the applicant and her husband, a psychological evaluation for the applicant's husband, employment documents for the applicant and her husband, tax and mortgage documents, household bills, articles on education and poverty in Mexico, a country conditions document on Mexico, and documents from the applicant's expedited removal. The entire record was reviewed and considered in arriving at a decision on the appeal.

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

> (i) In general.-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.
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> . . . .
>
> (iii) Waiver authorized.-For provision authorizing waiver of clause (i), see subsection (i).

Section 212 of the Act provides, in pertinent part, that:

> (i) (1) The Attorney General [now the Secretary of Homeland Security, "Secretary"] may, in the discretion of the [Secretary], waive the application of clause (i) of subsection (a)(6)(C) in the case of an immigrant 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 [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...

In the present case, the record indicates that the applicant initially entered the United States in August 1995 without inspection. In December 1999, the applicant departed the United States. On December 22, 1999, the applicant attempted to enter the United States by presenting a DSP-150 in someone else's name. On December 23, 1999, the applicant was expeditiously removed from the United States. On the same day, the applicant reentered the United States without inspection.

The AAO finds that based on the applicant's misrepresentation on December 22, 1999, the applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Act. The AAO notes that counsel does not dispute this finding. Additionally, the AAO finds that the applicant is inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of 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 ten years of her last departure from the United States. [1]

The applicant accrued more than one year of unlawful presence from April 1, 1997, the effective date of the unlawful presence provisions under the Act, until December 1999, the date she departed the United States. The applicant's departure from the United States following this period of unlawful presence triggered the applicant's inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act.

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-
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> . . . .
>
> (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] An application or petition that fails to comply with the technical requirements of the law may be denied by the AAO even if the Service Center does not identify all of the grounds for denial in the initial decision. *See Spencer Enterprises, Inc. v. United States*, 229 F. Supp. 2d 1025, 1043 (E.D. Cal. 2001), *aff'd*, 345 F.3d 683 (9th Cir. 2003); *see also Soltane v. DOJ*, 381 F.3d 143, 145 (3d Cir. 2004) (noting that the AAO conducts appellate review on a *de novo* basis).

(v) Waiver.-The [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.

Further, the AAO finds that based on the applicant's reentry to the United States without inspection in December 1999, the applicant is also inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) of the Act for having been unlawfully present in the United States for an aggregate period of more than one year and entering the United States without inspection. Finally, the AAO also finds the applicant inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(C)(i)(II) of the Act for having been ordered removed under section 235(b)(1) of the Act on December 23, 1999 and subsequently entering the United States without inspection.

Section 212(a)(9)(C)(i) of the Act states, in pertinent part:

(C) Aliens unlawfully present after previous immigration violations.-

(i) In general.-Any alien who-

(I) has been unlawfully present in the United States for an aggregate period of more than 1 year, or

(II) has been ordered removed under section 235(b)(1), section 240, or any other provision of law,

and who enters or attempts to reenter the United States without being admitted is inadmissible.

(ii) Exception.—Clause (i) shall not apply to an alien seeking admission more than 10 years after the date of the alien's last departure from the United States if . . . the Attorney General [now the Secretary of Homeland Security] has consented to the alien's reapplying for admission....

An alien who is inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act may not apply for consent to reapply unless the alien has been outside the United States for more than 10 years since the date of the alien's last departure from the United States. *See Matter of Torres-Garcia,* 23 I&N Dec. 866 (BIA 2006); *Matter of Briones,* 24 I&N Dec. 355 (BIA 2007); and *Matter of Diaz and Lopez,* 25 I&N Dec. 188 (BIA 2010). Thus, to avoid inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act, it must be the case that the applicant's last departure was at least ten years ago, the applicant has remained outside the United States *and* USCIS has consented to the applicant's reapplying for admission. In the present matter, the applicant's last departure from the United States occurred in December 1999. The applicant is currently residing in the United States

and therefore, has not remained outside the United States for 10 years since her last departure. She is currently statutorily ineligible to apply for permission to reapply for admission. As such, no purpose would be served in adjudicating her waiver under section 212(i) and section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act. The appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.