

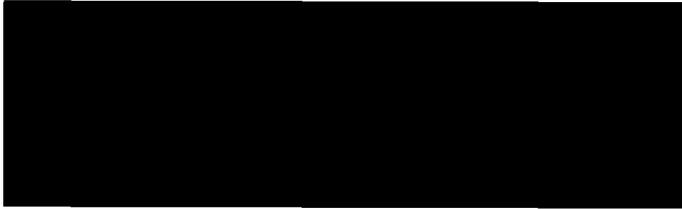
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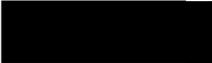
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090  
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship  
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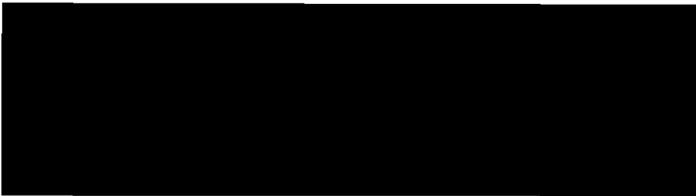
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IN RE: 

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

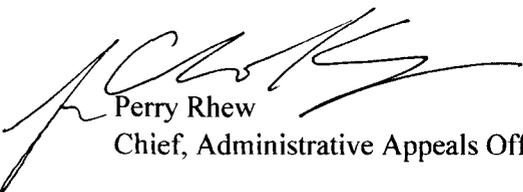
ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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 25-year-old 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. The applicant is married to a citizen of the United States, and she seeks a waiver of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v), in order to reside with her husband and children in the United States.

The director found that the applicant failed to establish extreme hardship to her spouse, and denied the application accordingly. *Decision of the Director*, dated Feb. 16, 2007. On appeal, the applicant contends through counsel that the denial of the waiver imposes extreme hardship on her husband. *See Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal*, dated Mar. 15, 2007.

The record contains, among other things, a copy of the couple's marriage certificate, indicating that they married in Mexico on December 28, 2001; birth certificates for the couple's two U.S. citizen children; an affidavit from the applicant's husband; financial and tax documents; documentation relating to the couple's property in Houston, Texas; family photographs; supportive letters from the applicant's mother-in-law, a neighbor, and a friend; and a brief on appeal. The entire record was reviewed and considered in rendering this decision on appeal.

Section 212(a)(9) 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 applicant claims that she entered the United States without being inspected and admitted in or around June, 2002. The applicant's spouse filed a Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130) on her behalf, which U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services approved on July 22, 2004. The applicant departed the United States in January, 2006. The applicant's unlawful presence for more than one year and departure from the United States triggered the ten-year bar in section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act. *See Matter of Rodarte-Roman*, 23 I&N Dec. 905, 909 (BIA 2006).<sup>1</sup>

In order to obtain a section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) waiver for unlawful presence, an applicant must show that the ten-year bar imposes an extreme hardship on the applicant's U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse or parent. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(v). Under the plain language of the statute, hardship to the applicant, or to his or her children or other family members, may not be considered, except to the extent that this hardship affects the applicant's qualifying relative. *See id.* (specifically identifying the relatives whose hardship is to be considered); *see also INS v. Hector*, 479 U.S. 85, 88 (1986). Additionally, extreme hardship to the qualifying relative must be established in the event that he or she remains in the United States and in the event that he or she accompanies the applicant to the home country. *See Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. 560, 565-68 (BIA 1999) (en banc) (considering the hardships of family separation and relocation). Once extreme hardship is established, it is but one favorable factor to be considered in the determination of whether the Secretary should exercise discretion in favor of the waiver. *See Matter of Mendez-Morales*, 21 I&N Dec. 296, 301 (BIA 1996) (en banc).

The concept of extreme hardship to a qualifying relative "is not . . . fixed and inflexible," and the determination is based on an examination of the facts of each individual case. *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. at 565. In *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) set forth a non-exhaustive list of factors relevant to determining whether an alien has established extreme hardship to a qualifying relative. These factors include: the presence of family ties to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents in the United States; family ties outside the United States; country conditions where the qualifying relative would relocate and family ties in that country; the financial impact of departure; and significant health conditions, particularly where there is diminished availability of medical care in the country to which the qualifying relative would relocate. *Id.* at 565-66. Family separation is also an important calculation in the extreme hardship analysis. *See, e.g., Salcido-Salcido v. INS*, 138 F.3d 1292, 1293 (9th Cir. 1998) (per curiam) ("When the BIA fails to give considerable, if not predominant, weight to the hardship that will result from family separation, it has abused its discretion."); *Matter of Lopez-Monzon*, 17 I&N Dec. 280

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<sup>1</sup> The director erred in characterizing the ground of inadmissibility in section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act as a "permanent bar to admission." *See Decision of the Director, supra* at 3. Rather, departure after unlawful presence of one year or more triggers a ten-year bar to admission. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(B)(i)(II).

(Commr. 1979) (noting in the context of a waiver under section 212(i) of the Act that the intent of the waiver is to provide for the unification of families and to avoid the hardship of separation).

Additionally,

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, e.g., economic detriment due to loss of a job or efforts ordinarily required in relocating or adjusting to life in the native country. Such ordinary hardships, while not alone sufficient to constitute extreme hardship, are considered in the assessment of aggregate hardship.

*Matter of O-J-O-*, 21 I&N Dec. 381, 383 (BIA 1996) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). However, “[t]he common results of deportation or exclusion are insufficient to prove extreme hardship.” *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 BIA held that mere economic detriment and emotional hardship caused by severing family and community ties are common results of deportation and do not constitute extreme hardship. In *Perez v. INS*, 96 F.3d 390 (9th Cir. 1996), the Ninth Circuit held that economic hardship and adjustment difficulties did not constitute hardship that was unusual or beyond that which would normally be expected upon deportation. In *INS v. Jong Ha Wang*, 450 U.S. 139 (1981), the U.S. Supreme Court held that the mere showing of economic detriment to qualifying family members is insufficient to warrant a finding of extreme hardship.<sup>2</sup>

The record reflects that the applicant’s spouse, [REDACTED], is a 31-year-old native of Mexico and citizen of the United States. The applicant and her husband have been married for eight years, and they have two U.S. citizen children. The applicant’s spouse asserts that he is suffering extreme emotional and financial hardships as a result of the denial of the waiver.

Regarding the emotional hardship of separation, the applicant’s spouse states that the applicant is a loving mother and wife, she provides him with emotional support, and he cannot imagine life without her. See *Affidavit of [REDACTED]* dated Mar. 27, 2007. Given [REDACTED] long working hours, the applicant ensured that all of the needs of the family and the household were cared for. *Id.* Because of the financial stress caused by separation, and his fears for the safety of his family in Mexico, [REDACTED] has suffered sleepless nights. *Id.* [REDACTED] family and friends have noted the stress to [REDACTED] caused by his separation from his family. See *Letters from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]*

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<sup>2</sup> The director erred in citing to *Matter of Tin*, 14 I&N Dec. 371 (Reg. Commr. 1973) and *Matter of Lee*, 17 I&N Dec. 275 (Commr. 1978), because these decisions discuss the factors relevant to consent to reapply for admission after deportation from the United States, which are not applicable to this case. Because the AAO reviews these proceedings de novo, 5 U.S.C. § 557(b), and dismisses the appeal, this error is harmless.

██████████ and ██████████ Additionally ██████████ expressed great sadness that his youngest daughter did not recognize him when he visited the family in Mexico. See *Affidavit of* ██████████

Regarding economic hardship, the record reflects that ██████████ has been employed in construction, and his annual income in 2004 was \$18,401. See *Tax Records*. The record reflects monthly expenses of \$922.50, including a mortgage payment of \$636.00. See *Financial Documents*. Mr. ██████████ also notes the financial strain of supporting two households, and the expense of traveling to Mexico to visit the applicant, but the record contains no supporting evidence of these financial burdens. See *Affidavit of* ██████████

Although the record shows that separation from the applicant has caused various difficulties to the applicant's husband, the evidence in this record does not demonstrate that the challenges encountered by ██████████, considered cumulatively, meet the extreme hardship standard. First, while the emotional hardship of separation is apparent from ██████████'s affidavit and the supporting letters, the applicant did not provide medical records, detailed testimony, or other evidence to show that the psychological hardships he faces are unusual or beyond what would be expected upon family separation due to one member's inadmissibility. Second, a showing of economic detriment generally is not sufficient to warrant a finding of extreme hardship. See *Hassan*, 927 F.2d at 468. Finally, the hardships faced by the applicant and the couple's children as a result of family separation are not calculated in the extreme hardship analysis, except to the extent that these hardships impact ██████████. Here, ██████████ states that he worries about the safety of his family in Mexico. However, the evidence in the record does not indicate that the impact of these concerns on ██████████ rises to the level of extreme hardship.

Regarding relocation, ██████████ contends that he cannot move to Mexico because he has no home or job there. See *Affidavit of* ██████████. The economy in Mexico is poor, and the average pay is \$50.00 per week, which does not cover living expenses. *Id.* Additionally, ██████████ states that he would not be able to pay his debts in the United States. *Id.* Further, ██████████ states that his family lives in the United States, and he considers this to be his home. *Id.* Finally, if he moved to Mexico, the family "would lose everything [they] have worked for [their] entire lives." *Id.*

Given ██████████ long residence, work history, and ties in the United States, it appears that relocation to Mexico could cause difficulties. However, the evidence in this record does not support a finding that relocation would cause extreme hardship to ██████████. First, the record lacks evidence, such as country conditions information, detailed testimony, or other information, to support the applicant's husband's claim that he would be unable to find gainful employment in Mexico. Second, the record does not indicate whether ██████████'s family members in the United States are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, or whether ██████████ has family ties in Mexico. Third, there is no evidence that ██████████ has any significant health conditions that would be impacted by relocation to Mexico. Accordingly, the record does not support the applicant's contention that relocation to Mexico would cause extreme hardship to her spouse. See *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. at 565-66.

In sum, although the applicant's spouse claims hardships based on family separation and relocation, the record does not support a finding that the difficulties, considered in the aggregate, would rise beyond the common results of removal or inadmissibility to the level of extreme hardship. *See Perez*, 96 F.3d at 392; *Matter of Pilch*, 21 I&N Dec. at 631. Although the distress caused by separation from one's family is not in question, a waiver of inadmissibility is only available where the resulting hardship would be unusual or beyond that which would normally be expected upon removal. *See id.* The AAO therefore finds that the applicant has failed to establish extreme hardship to her spouse, as required under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act.

Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361, provides that the burden of proof is on the applicant to establish eligibility for the benefit sought. Here, the applicant has not met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.