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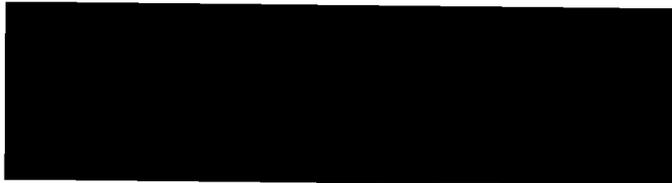
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

H6



FILE: [Redacted] Office: MEXICO CITY (CIUDAD JUAREZ) DATE: **JUL 30 2010**
[Redacted] relates)

IN RE: Applicant: [Redacted]

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:

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.

Thank you,

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 sustained and the waiver application will be approved.

The record establishes that the applicant, a native and citizen of Mexico, entered the United States without authorization in May 2003 and did not depart the United States until March 2005. 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. The applicant does not contest this finding of inadmissibility. Rather, she is seeking a waiver of inadmissibility in order to reside in the United States with her U.S. citizen spouse and child, born in 2004.

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 December 31, 2007.

In support of the appeal, the applicant's spouse submits the following: the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal (Form I-290B), dated January 10, 2008; a letter from the applicant's spouse, dated January 2, 2008; a letter and supporting documentation from the applicant's doctor, [REDACTED] M.D.; and a photograph. 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.

....

(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...

Section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act provides that a waiver under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act is applicable solely where the applicant establishes extreme hardship to his or her citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent. Unlike waivers under section 212(h) of the Act, section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) does not mention extreme hardship to a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident child. Nor is extreme hardship to the applicant herself a permissible consideration under the statute. In the present case, the applicant's U.S. citizen spouse is the only qualifying relative, and hardship to the applicant or their child cannot be considered, except as it may affect the applicant's spouse.

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 he will suffer extreme emotional and physical hardship were he to remain in the United States while the applicant resides abroad due to her inadmissibility. As the applicant's spouse explains on appeal,

I had an accident at my workplace on December 7, 2007 I last (sic) the fingers from my right hand.... I am still in TREATMENT and MEDICATION.... I am going through a lo (sic) trauma right now, and in top of all this I received a denial for my wife I-601 this is very depressive situation....

Form I-290B, dated January 10, 2008.

In support, a letter has been provided from the applicant's spouse's treating physician, Dr. S.R. [REDACTED] notes,

Patient [REDACTED] [the applicant's spouse] has sustained a traumatic and disfiguring injury. His wife [the applicant's spouse] is needed to be with her husband to provide emotional support during this tragic situation. [REDACTED] has life changing and permanent injury and disability....

Letter from [REDACTED] MD, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, dated January 7, 2008. In addition, emergency room and medical reports detailing the injury and its treatment plan have been submitted.

Based on the applicant's spouse's traumatic injury and its resulting amputation, and the long-term emotional and physical ramifications of said injury, the AAO concludes that the applicant's spouse would suffer extreme hardship were his spouse unable to reside in the United States due to her inadmissibility.

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. To begin, the AAO notes the applicant's spouse's long-term gainful employment in the United States. *Letter from [REDACTED] Assistant Manager, Bar-G Feedyard, dated April 9, 2007.* In addition, the record establishes that the applicant's spouse was born in the United States and has no ties to Mexico. Moreover, the U.S. Department of State has issued a travel warning, advising U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the high rates of crime and violence in Mexico. *Travel Warning-Mexico, U.S. Department of State, dated July 16, 2010.* Finally, the AAO notes the applicant's spouse's life-altering injury and the need for him to receive continued treatment and care by medical professionals familiar with his condition. Based on a totality of the circumstances, the applicant has established that her U.S. citizen spouse would suffer extreme hardship were he to relocate abroad to reside with the applicant due to her inadmissibility.

Accordingly, the AAO finds that the situation presented in this application rises to the level of extreme hardship. However, the grant or denial of the waiver does not turn only on the issue of the meaning of "extreme hardship." It also hinges on the discretion of the Secretary and pursuant to such terms, conditions and procedures as he may by regulations prescribe. In discretionary matters, the alien bears the burden of proving eligibility in terms of equities in the United States which are not outweighed by adverse factors. *See Matter of T-S-Y-, 7 I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1957).*

In evaluating whether . . . relief is warranted in the exercise of discretion, the factors adverse to the alien include the nature and underlying circumstances of the exclusion ground at issue, the presence of additional significant violations of this country's immigration laws, the existence of a criminal record, and if so, its nature and seriousness, and the presence of other evidence indicative of the alien's bad character or undesirability as a permanent resident of this country. The favorable considerations include family ties in the United States, residence of long duration in this country (particularly where alien began residency at a young age), evidence of

hardship to the alien and his family if he is excluded and deported, service in this country's Armed Forces, a history of stable employment, the existence of property or business ties, evidence of value or service in the community, evidence of genuine rehabilitation if a criminal record exists, and other evidence attesting to the alien's good character (e.g., affidavits from family, friends and responsible community representatives).

See Matter of Mendez-Morales, 21 I&N Dec. 296, 301 (BIA 1996). The AAO must then, "[B]alance the adverse factors evidencing an alien's undesirability as a permanent resident with the social and humane considerations presented on the alien's behalf to determine whether the grant of relief in the exercise of discretion appears to be in the best interests of the country." *Id.* at 300. (Citations omitted).

The favorable factors in this matter are the extreme hardship the applicant's U.S. citizen spouse and children would face if the applicant were to reside in Mexico, regardless of whether they accompanied the applicant or remained in the United States, community ties, support letters, the apparent lack of a criminal record, and the passage of more than seven years since the commencement of the applicant's unlawful presence in the United States. The unfavorable factor in this matter is the applicant's unlawful presence while in the United States.

The immigration violation committed by the applicant is serious in nature and cannot be condoned. Nonetheless, the AAO finds that the applicant has established that the favorable factors in her application outweigh the unfavorable factors. Therefore, a favorable exercise of the Secretary's discretion is warranted.

In proceedings for application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, the burden of establishing that the application merits approval remains entirely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The applicant has sustained that burden. Accordingly, this appeal will be sustained and the application approved.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained. The waiver application is approved.