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



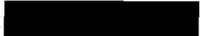
**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

H6



DATE: **MAR 30 2012**

Office: CIUDAD JUAREZ, MX

FILE: 

IN RE: 

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.

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 cursive script that reads "Perry Rhew".

Perry Rhew  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility was denied by the Field Office Director, Ciudad Juarez, 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 native and citizen of Mexico who entered the United States in August 2003. She remained unlawfully in the U.S. until September 2008, at which time she departed the country. The applicant was found to be inadmissible to the United States under 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 for more than one year and seeking readmission within ten years of her departure from the U.S. The applicant has a U.S. citizen spouse, and she is the beneficiary of an approved Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130). She seeks a waiver of inadmissibility pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. §1182(a)(9)(B)(v).

In a decision dated December 1, 2009, the director concluded the applicant had failed to establish that a qualifying relative would experience extreme hardship if she were denied admission into the United States. The waiver application was denied accordingly.

The applicant asserts on appeal that her U.S. citizen husband will experience extreme hardship if she is denied admission into the U.S. In support of her assertions, the applicant submits letters from her husband and family members. In addition to the English-language letters, the record also contains a Spanish-language letter written by the applicant's husband.

8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(3) provides that:

Any document containing foreign language submitted to USCIS shall be accompanied by a full English language translation which the translator has certified as complete and accurate, and by the translator's certification that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English.

Because the Spanish-language letter is not accompanied by a certified English translation, it cannot be considered in the applicant's case. The entire remaining record was reviewed and considered in rendering a decision on the appeal

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

(i) [A]ny 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.

The record reflects the applicant was unlawfully present in the United States between August 2003 and September 2008, at which time she departed the country. Inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act, which is triggered upon departure, remains in force until the alien has been absent from the U.S. for ten years. The applicant was unlawfully present in the U.S. for over one year and she has remained outside of the U.S. for less than ten years. She is therefore inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act. The applicant does not contest her inadmissibility under this provision.

Section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act provides in pertinent part:

Waiver.-The Attorney General 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 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 of the bar to admission is dependent first upon a showing that the bar imposes an extreme hardship on a qualifying family member. Once extreme hardship is established, it is but one favorable factor to be considered in the determination of whether the Secretary should exercise discretion. *Matter of Mendez*, 21 I&N Dec. 296 (BIA 1996).

Extreme hardship is “not a definable term of fixed and inflexible content or meaning,” but “necessarily depends upon the facts and circumstances peculiar to each case.” *Matter of Hwang*, 10 I&N Dec. 448, 451 (BIA 1964). In *Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. 560, 565 (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. *Id.* The BIA added that not all of the foregoing factors need be analyzed in any given case and emphasized that the list of factors was not exclusive. *Id.* at 566.

The BIA has also held that the common or typical results of removal and inadmissibility do not constitute extreme hardship, and has listed certain individual hardship factors considered common rather than extreme. These factors include: economic disadvantage, loss of current employment, inability to maintain one’s present standard of living, inability to pursue a chosen profession, separation from family members, severing community ties, cultural readjustment after living in the United States for many years, cultural adjustment of qualifying relatives who have never lived outside the United States, inferior economic and educational opportunities in the foreign country,

or inferior medical facilities in the foreign country. *See generally Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. at 568; *Matter of Pilch*, 21 I&N Dec. 627, 632-33 (BIA 1996); *Matter of Ige*, 20 I&N Dec. 880, 883 (BIA 1994); *Matter of Ngai*, 19 I&N Dec. 245, 246-47 (Comm'r 1984); *Matter of Kim*, 15 I&N Dec. 88, 89-90 (BIA 1974); *Matter of Shaughnessy*, 12 I&N Dec. 810, 813 (BIA 1968).

Though hardships may not be extreme when considered abstractly or individually, the BIA has made it clear that “[r]elevant factors, though not extreme in themselves, must be considered in the aggregate in determining whether extreme hardship exists.” *Matter of O-J-O-*, 21 I&N Dec. 381, 383 (BIA 1996) (quoting *Matter of Ige*, 20 I.&N. Dec. at 882). The adjudicator “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.” *Id.*

The actual hardship associated with an abstract hardship factor such as family separation, economic disadvantage, cultural readjustment, et cetera, differs in nature and severity depending on the unique circumstances of each case, as does the cumulative hardship a qualifying relative experiences as a result of aggregated individual hardships. *See, e.g., Matter of Bing Chih Kao and Mei Tsui Lin*, 23 I&N Dec. 45, 51 (BIA 2001) (distinguishing *Matter of Pilch* regarding hardship faced by qualifying relatives on the basis of variations in the length of residence in the United States and the ability to speak the language of the country to which they would relocate). For example, though family separation has been found to be a common result of inadmissibility or removal, separation from family living in the United States can also be the most important single hardship factor in considering hardship in the aggregate. *See Salcido-Salcido*, 138 F.3d at 1293 (quoting *Contreras-Buenfil v. INS*, 712 F.2d 401, 403 (9th Cir. 1983)); *but see Matter of Ngai*, 19 I&N Dec. at 247 (separation of spouse and children from applicant not extreme hardship due to conflicting evidence in the record and because applicant and spouse had been voluntarily separated from one another for 28 years). Therefore, we consider the totality of the circumstances in determining whether denial of admission would result in extreme hardship to a qualifying relative.

The applicant’s husband is a U.S. citizen. He is therefore a qualifying relative for section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act, waiver of inadmissibility purposes.

The record contains letters from the applicant’s husband, his brother and their sister-in-law stating the applicant’s husband has lived in the U.S. separated from his wife since September 2008, that he suffers from sleeplessness, loss of appetite, sadness and sorrow due to the separation, and that he takes medication for his symptoms. The letters indicate the applicant’s husband’s despair is deepened by the knowledge that his wife is also on medication and under a doctor’s care in Mexico due to depression related to her situation. The letters also indicate that although the applicant’s husband has a good job, he now lives with his brother and sister-in-law due to financial hardship related to the loss of his wife’s income and the necessity of supporting his wife in Mexico. The letters state that due to his financial troubles, the applicant’s husband is rarely able to visit his wife in Tijuana, and he also is unable to call her often.

Upon review, the AAO finds that the evidence in the record, when considered in the aggregate, fails to establish the applicant's husband would experience hardship that rises beyond the common results of removal or inadmissibility if the applicant is denied admission into the United States, and her husband either remains in the U.S. separated from the applicant, or moves to Mexico to be with her.

Although the assertions contained in the letters are relevant and have been taken into consideration, little weight can be afforded them in the absence of supporting evidence. *See Matter of Kwan*, 14 I&N Dec. 175 (BIA 1972) ("Information in an affidavit should not be disregarded simply because it appears to be hearsay; in administrative proceedings, that fact merely affects the weight to be afforded it."). Going on record without supporting documentary evidence is not sufficient for purposes of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *See 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)).

The record contains no medical or other documentary evidence to corroborate the claims that the applicant and her husband are being treated by a doctor for emotional or physical symptoms related to the applicant's inadmissibility. The record also lacks corroborative evidence to establish the applicant's husband's employment and financial status, or to establish that he is suffering from financial hardship due to his separation from the applicant. The applicant thus failed to establish that her husband is experiencing emotional, physical or financial hardship that rises above that normally experienced upon removal or inadmissibility, due to his separation from the applicant.

Moreover, neither the applicant nor her husband and family members address whether the applicant's husband would experience hardship if he relocated to Mexico to be with the applicant, and the record contains no evidence to indicate or establish such hardship. The applicant thus also failed to establish that her husband would experience hardship that rises above that normally experienced upon removal or inadmissibility if he moved with his wife to Mexico.

As the applicant has not established extreme hardship to a qualifying family member, no purpose would be served in determining whether the applicant merits a waiver as a matter of discretion.

In proceedings for an 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. *See* 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.