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

(b)(6)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Date: OCT 3 1 2013 Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER FILE:

IN RE: Applicant:

APPLICATION: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the 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 (AAO) in your case.

This is a non-precedent decision. The AAO does not announce new constructions of law nor establish agency policy through non-precedent decisions. If you believe the AAO incorrectly applied current law or policy to your case or if you seek to present new facts for consideration, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen, respectively. Any motion must be filed on a Notice of Appeal or Motion (Form I-290B) within 33 days of the date of this decision. **Please review the Form I-290B instructions at http://www.uscis.gov/forms for the latest information on fee, filing location, and other requirements.** *See also* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. **Do not file a motion directly with the AAO.**

Thank you,

Ron Rosenberg
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, Nebraska Service Center, denied the waiver application and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a 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 Act for having been unlawfully present in the United States for more than one year and section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act for reentering the United States without being admitted after being unlawfully present for more than one year. The applicant is married to a U.S. citizen and seeks a waiver of inadmissibility pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the Act in order to reside with his wife and children in the United States.

The director found that the applicant is ineligible to obtain consent to reapply for admission to the United States because he has not remained outside the United States for at least ten consecutive years and denied the applicant's waiver application as a matter of discretion. The director further found that the applicant failed to establish extreme hardship to a qualifying relative. The director denied the waiver application accordingly.

On appeal, the applicant's wife contends they never received notice requesting additional evidence and submits additional documentation on appeal.

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

> (i) In General - Any alien (other than an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence) who -
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> . . . .
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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.
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> . . . .
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> (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) 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, prior to the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be readmitted from a foreign contiguous territory, the Secretary of Homeland Security has consented to the alien's reapplying for admission.

(iii) Waiver. - The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the application of clause (i) in the case of an alien who is a VAWA self-petitioner if there is a connection between--

(I) the alien's battering or subjection to extreme cruelty; and

(II) the alien's removal, departure from the United States, reentry or reentries into the United States; or attempted reentry into the United States.

In this case, the record shows, and the applicant does not contest, that he first entered the United States without inspection in January 1997 and remained until November 2005. The record also shows, and the applicant does not contest, that he reentered the United States without inspection in March 2006 and remained until February 2008.

The applicant accrued unlawful presence for more than one year, beginning on May 2, 1997, when he turned eighteen years old, until his departure in November 2005. The applicant also accrued unlawful presence from March 2006 until February 2008. Therefore, he is inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) of the Act for being unlawfully present in the United States for a period of one year or more and seeking admission to the United States within ten years of his last departure. In addition, the applicant is inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) of the Act for reentering the United States in March 2006 without being

admitted after having been unlawfully present in the United States for an aggregate period of more than one year. There is no evidence in the record that the applicant is a VAWA self-petitioner and, therefore, there is no waiver available for this ground of inadmissibility.

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 ten 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); *see also Matter of Diaz and Lopez*, 25 I&N Dec. 188 (BIA 2010); *Matter of Briones*, 24 I&N Dec. 355 (BIA 2007). Thus, to avoid inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act, the BIA has held that 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 this case, because the applicant reentered the United States without being admitted, after he had been unlawfully present in the United States for more than one year, he is inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) of the Act. An alien inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act may not apply for consent to reapply until he has been outside the United States for more than ten years since the date of his last departure from the United States. Here, the applicant's last departure was in February 2008. He remains statutorily ineligible to apply for permission to reapply for admission until February 2018. Accordingly, the appeal must be dismissed as no purpose would be served in discussing whether he has established the existence of extreme hardship to a qualifying relative.

Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361, provides that the burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that she is eligible for the benefit sought. After a careful review of the record, it is concluded that the applicant is not eligible to apply for consent to reapply at this time. Accordingly, no purpose would be served in evaluating whether the applicant has established extreme hardship to a qualifying relative and the underlying waiver application must be dismissed.

In application proceedings, it is the applicant's burden to establish eligibility for the immigration benefit sought. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. Here, that burden has not been met.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.