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**U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED] Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER Date: **MAY 11 2006**
(LIN-05-230-53040 relates)

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

APPLICATION: Application for Travel Document Pursuant to Section 223 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1203.

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: SELF-REPRESENTED

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

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

The applicant is a native and citizen of Syria, who seeks to obtain a travel document (reentry permit) under section 223 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1203. The Acting Director concluded that the applicant did not hold valid lawful permanent or conditional resident status at the time the application was filed and denied the application accordingly. *See Acting Director's Decision* dated September 26, 2005.

Section 223 of the Act provides, in pertinent part, that an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence who intends to visit abroad and return to the United States to resume that status may make an application for a permit to reenter the United States.

The applicant completed Part 2, box a, on his Application for Travel Document (Form I-131) that states:

I am a permanent resident or conditional resident of the United States and I am applying for a Reentry Permit.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 223.2 states in pertinent part:

(b) Eligibility.

(1) Reentry permit. Except as otherwise provided in this section, an application may be approved if filed by a person who is in the United States at the time of application and is a lawful permanent resident or conditional permanent resident.

On appeal, the applicant states that he wants to attend his daughter's graduation and wedding. In addition, the applicant states that he is proud to be a resident of the United States. The applicant submits copies of W-2 forms and other documentation regarding his employment in the United States, a copy of his marriage certificate and copies of previously issued Authorization for Parole of an Alien into the United States (Form I-512) issued on February 10, 2000 and August 25, 2003.

The record of proceedings reveals that the applicant was issued an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 274a.12(c)(9), as an alien who has filed an Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485). The mere filing of Form I-485 does not confer lawful permanent or conditional residence status to an applicant. The applicant is not a lawful permanent or conditional resident of the United States. Absent such evidence, the application may not be approved.

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



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As noted above, the applicant was twice issued a Form I-512. The applicant may be eligible for another advance parole. Therefore, the decision is without prejudice to the filing of a new Form I-131 for advance parole if the applicant completes the appropriate box on the application.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.