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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



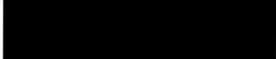
U.S. Citizenship
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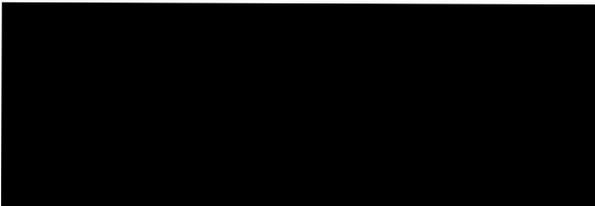
Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 245A of the
Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. If your appeal was dismissed or rejected, all documents have been returned to the National Benefits Center. You no longer have a case pending before this office, and you are not entitled to file a motion to reopen or reconsider your case. If your appeal was sustained or remanded for further action, you will be contacted.

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for temporary resident status pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreements reached in *Catholic Social Services, Inc., et al., v. Ridge, et al.*, CIV. NO. S-86-1343-LKK (E.D. Cal) January 23, 2004, and *Felicity Mary Newman, et al., v. United States Immigration and Citizenship Services, et al.*, CIV. NO. 87-4757-WDK (C.D. Cal) February 17, 2004 (CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements), was denied by the Director, Los Angeles on May 8, 2007 because the applicant had abandoned his application by no responding to a Notice of Intent to Deny. After considering the applicant's motion to reopen, the director reopened the case and again denied the application on April 8, 2008. The decision is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant submitted a Form I-687, Application for Status as a Temporary Resident under Section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and a Form I-687 Supplement, CSS/Newman (LULAC) Class Membership Worksheet. The director denied the application because the applicant did not establish that he continuously resided in the United States for the duration of the requisite period.

On appeal, counsel submits additional evidence for consideration.

An applicant for temporary resident status must establish entry into the United States before January 1, 1982, and continuous residence in the United States in an unlawful status since such date and through the date the application is filed. Section 245A(a)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(2). The applicant must also establish that he or she has been continuously physically present in the United States since November 6, 1986. Section 245A(a)(3) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(3). The regulations clarify that the applicant must have been physically present in the United States from November 6, 1986 until the date of filing the application. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b)(1).

For purposes of establishing residence and physical presence under the CSS/Newman Settlement Agreements, the term "until the date of filing" in 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(b)(1) means until the date the applicant attempted to file a completed Form I-687 application and fee or was caused not to timely file during the original legalization application period of May 5, 1987 to May 4, 1988. CSS Settlement Agreement paragraph 11 at page 6; Newman Settlement Agreement paragraph 11 at page 10. The applicant has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she has resided in the United States for the requisite period, is admissible to the United States under the provisions of section 245A of the Act, and is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status. The inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility and amenability to verification. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5). To meet his or her burden of proof, an applicant must provide evidence of eligibility apart from his or her own testimony, and the sufficiency of all evidence produced by the applicant will be judged according to its probative value and credibility. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(6).

The "preponderance of the evidence" standard requires that the evidence demonstrate that the applicant's claim is "probably true," where the determination of "truth" is made based on the factual circumstances of each individual case. *Matter of E-M-*, 20 I&N Dec. 77, 79-80 (Comm. 1989). In evaluating the evidence, *Matter of E-M-* also stated that "[t]ruth is to be determined

not by the quantity of evidence alone but by its quality.” *Id.* at 80. Thus, in adjudicating the application pursuant to the preponderance of the evidence standard, the director must examine each piece of evidence for relevance, probative value, and credibility, both individually and within the context of the totality of the evidence, to determine whether the fact to be proven is probably true.

Even if the director has some doubt as to the truth, if the petitioner submits relevant, probative, and credible evidence that leads the director to believe that the claim is “probably true” or “more likely than not,” the applicant or petitioner has satisfied the standard of proof. *See U.S. v. Cardozo-Fonseca*, 480 U.S. 421, 431 (1987) (defining “more likely than not” as a greater than 50 percent probability of something occurring). If the director can articulate a material doubt, it is appropriate for the director to request additional evidence or, if that doubt leads the director to believe that the claim is probably not true, to deny the application.

The pertinent evidence in the record is described below.

1. Notarized statements from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who state they know the applicant has resided in the United States since 1981.
2. Notarized statements from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who state they know the applicant has resided in the United States since 1982.
3. Notarized statements from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who state they know the applicant has resided in the United States since 1983.
4. An envelope addressed to the applicant in the United States from a person in India postmarked with an indecipherable date described by counsel as being postmarked December 8, 1981.
5. A letter and clinical notes from [REDACTED] who states that [REDACTED] and the applicant, her then-fiancée, visited his office in Glendale, California on September 22, 1982 and that he provided treatment to [REDACTED]. The doctor further states that on November 14, 1985, they returned to his office as a married couple and he again provided services to the applicant’s then spouse.
6. A letter from [REDACTED] of Valley Hindu Temple in Northridge, California who states he married the applicant and [REDACTED] at the Temple on September 1, 1985.
7. A Hindu marriage certificate abstract dated January 10, 2008 signed by a person with an undecipherable signature of [REDACTED] in Haryana, India, indicating [REDACTED] married the applicant in “California (United States)” on September 1, 1985.

8. A translation of an advertisement announcing the changing of the name of [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] after her marriage on September 9, 1985. The announcement was published in Punjab Kaseri on "22-07-1999."
9. The birth certificate for the applicant's son [REDACTED] born in India on June 26, 1986 and a translation of an advertisement announcing the changing the son's name from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. The announcement was published in [REDACTED] on "12 March 2000."

The persons providing the statements (Items # 1 through # 3 above) claim to have known the applicant for a substantial length of time, three since 1981. However, their statements are not accompanied by any documentary evidence such as photographs, letters or other documents establishing the writers' personal relationships and contacts with the applicant while he was in the United States during the 1980s. In view of these substantive shortcomings, the AAO finds that the statements have little probative value. They are not persuasive evidence of the applicant's continuous unlawful residence in the United States from before January 1, 1982 through the date he attempted to file a Form I-687 or was caused not to timely file during the original filing period from May 5, 1987 ending on May 4, 1988. The envelope (Item # 4) does not have a discernable postmark and does not bear any indication that it ever entered the United States postal system. The letter's from his former wife's doctor, the person who married them in 1985 and the translation of an advertisement announcing the applicant's former wife's name change by themselves (Items #5 through # 8) do not establish the applicant's continuous residence in the United States during the entire requisite period.

On his Form I-687, filed on June 7, 2005, the applicant was requested to list all absences from the United States since entry. He listed one emergency trip to an unnamed country in December 1986 and indicated that he returned to the United States in the same month. However, on his son's birth certificate issued when he was born abroad on June 26, 1986 (Item # 9) lists the applicant as his father and provides the father's address "[REDACTED]". The difference between the applicant's statement on his Form I-687 and the statement on his son's birth certificate casts doubt on the applicant's claim that he resided continuously in the United States during the requisite period.

Doubt cast on any aspect of the applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. Further, the applicant must resolve any inconsistencies in the record with competent, independent, objective evidence. Attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence sufficient to demonstrate where the truth, in fact, lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. 582, 591-92 (BIA 1988). These inconsistencies cast doubt not only on the evidence containing the conflicts, but on all of the applicant's evidence and all of his assertions.

The issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has furnished sufficient credible evidence to demonstrate entry into the United States prior to January 1, 1982, and continuous residence during the requisite period. The applicant's asserted residential and absence histories on his Form I-687 are accompanied by inconsistent evidence.

The evidence must be evaluated not by the quantity of evidence alone but by its quality. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5), the inference to be drawn from the documentation provided shall depend on the extent of the documentation, its credibility, and its amenability to verification. Given the absence of credible supporting documentation, the applicant has failed to meet his burden of proof and failed to establish continuous residence in an unlawful status in the United States during the requisite period. The applicant is, therefore, ineligible for temporary resident status under section 245A of the Act. The application was correctly denied on this basis, which has not been overcome on appeal. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application is affirmed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed. This decision constitutes a final notice of ineligibility