

identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy



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

**PUBLIC COPY**



L1

DATE:  
**AUG 04 2011**

Office: DALLAS

FILE:



IN RE: Applicant:



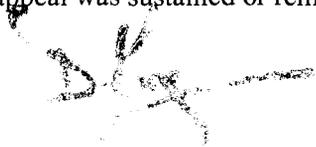
APPLICATION: Application for Status as a Temporary Resident pursuant to Section 245A of the  
Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a

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, Dallas. The decision is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record indicates that the applicant filed a Form I-687 Application for Temporary Resident Status on January 10, 2006. The director issued a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID) on April 9, 2007 indicating that the applicant failed to submit sufficient evidence of his continuous residence throughout the relevant period. The applicant failed to respond to the NOID. On August 22, 2006, the director denied the application noting that the applicant failed to respond indicating that the application was abandoned.

USCIS subsequently informed the applicant that, pursuant to a recent court order, applications for temporary resident status may not be denied based on abandonment. He was informed that he was entitled to file an appeal with AAO which must be adjudicated on the merits.

The AAO conducts appellate review on a *de novo* basis. See *Soltane v. DOJ*, 381 F.3d 143, 145 (3d Cir. 2004). Following *de novo* review, the AAO found that that the director's basis for denial of the Form I-687 was in error. However, the director identified alternative grounds for denial of the application in the NOID. Specifically, the director noted the applicant failed to submit sufficient evidence of his continuous residence in the United States during the relevant period.

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 245(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).

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).

Although the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3) provides an illustrative list of contemporaneous documents that an applicant may submit in support of his or her claim of continuous residence in the

United States in an unlawful status since prior to January 1, 1982, the submission of any other relevant document is permitted pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(vi)(L).

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 either request additional evidence or, if that doubt leads the director to believe that the claim is probably not true, deny the application or petition.

The issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established that he (1) entered the United States before January 1, 1982 and (2) has continuously resided in the United States in an unlawful status for the requisite period of time. In support of his eligibility, the applicant submits written statements from the following individuals:

The declarants provide few relevant details regarding the applicant's entry to the United States or his continuous residence throughout the relevant period. Most declarants indicate only that they met the applicant during the relevant period. Their testimony fails to indicate how they date their initial meeting with the applicant, how frequently they had contact with the applicant, or how they have personal knowledge of the applicant's presence in the United States. Further, most declarants fail to provide information regarding where the applicant lived during the requisite period.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant may be ineligible for temporary resident status due to his criminal history. According to an FBI report based upon the applicant's fingerprints, he has the following criminal history:

- On January 20, 1984 in Dallas, Texas and charged with *evading arrest* and *unlawful carrying of a weapon*, using alias [REDACTED] Court records from Dallas County Clerk's office indicate that the applicant was convicted of the latter charge. (Case no. [REDACTED])

- On October 17, 1998 in San Antonio, Texas and charged with *willful misrepresentation of material fact*, a misdemeanor. The applicant used alias [REDACTED] and was convicted and sentenced to 150 days in jail.
- On November 30, 1998 in San Antonio, Texas and charged with *attempted illegal entry by false or misleading representation*, a misdemeanor. The applicant had been previously granted voluntary departure and returned to Mexico on April 19, 1997.

The applicant bears the burden of establishing that he is eligible for temporary resident status and admissible to the United States. In this case, the applicant has not addressed whether he has been convicted of three or more misdemeanors, which would disqualify him from eligibility. Furthermore, USCIS records indicate that the applicant has been granted voluntary departure and subsequently attempted to illegally reenter the United States. Thus, he has not established his admissibility. Section 245A(a)(4)(A) of the Act requires an alien to establish that he or she is admissible to the United States as an immigrant in order to be eligible for temporary resident status. Section 245A(a)(4)(A) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1255a(a)(4)(A). Section 212(a)(9)(A)(ii)(II) of the Act renders inadmissible aliens who departed the United States while an order of removal was outstanding and who seek admission within 10 years of the date of the alien's departure. Section 212(a)(9)(A)(ii)(II) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(ii)(II). Although this ground of inadmissibility may be waived pursuant to section 245A(d)(2)(B) of the Act, the record does not indicate that the applicant ever requested or was granted such a waiver. In any event, a waiver would not cure all deficiencies in the record.

Therefore, based upon the foregoing, the applicant is ineligible for temporary residence because he failed to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he entered the United States before January 1, 1982 and continuously resided in an unlawful status in the United States for the requisite period as required under both 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(5) and *Matter of E- M--*, *supra*.

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