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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Citizenship and Immigration Services
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)
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Washington, DC 20529-2090
U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



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Date: OCT 25 2011

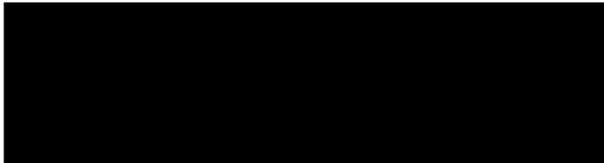
Office: NEWARK

FILE: 

IN RE: Applicant: 

APPLICATION: Application for Status as a Permanent Resident pursuant to Section 1104 of the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-553, 114 Stat. 2762 (2000), amended by Life Act Amendments, Pub. L. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763 (2000).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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. If your appeal was sustained, or if the matter was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. If your appeal was dismissed, 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.

Elizabeth McCormack

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for permanent resident status under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act was denied by the director of the Newark office, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The director denied the instant application, finding that the applicant had filed another Form I-485 application under the LIFE Act and that continued processing of the applicant's second Form I-485 may result in a duplication of benefits.¹

On appeal, the applicant provides a statement and asks United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) to review his application.

The AAO conducts appellate review on a *de novo* basis. *See Soltane v. DOJ*, 381 F.3d 143, 145 (3d Cir. 2004).

An applicant for permanent resident status under section 1104 of the LIFE Act 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 through May 4, 1988. *See* § 1104(c)(2)(B) of the LIFE Act and 8 C.F.R. § 245a.11(b).

An applicant for permanent resident status under section 1104 of the LIFE Act has the burden to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she has resided in the United States for the requisite periods, is admissible to the United States and is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status under this section. 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.12(e).

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 states that "[t]ruth is to be determined not by the quantity of evidence alone but by its quality." *Id.* 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 (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

¹ The director denied the first application filed, finding the applicant failed to establish that he had continuously resided in the United States in an unlawful status from before January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988. The AAO dismissed an appeal of the director's decision.

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.

Although the regulations provide an illustrative list of contemporaneous documents that an applicant may submit, the list also permits the submission of affidavits and any other relevant document. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 245a.2(d)(3)(vi)(L).

The issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant established that he continuously resided in the United States in an unlawful status throughout the requisite period and is otherwise eligible for adjustment to permanent resident status pursuant to the LIFE Act.

As evidence in support of his claim, the applicant submitted two affidavits. The first affidavit is from [REDACTED] who states that he and the applicant worked together from 1982 through 1993. [REDACTED] did not indicate where he and the applicant worked together or how he dates his initial acquaintance with the applicant.

The second affidavit is from [REDACTED] who states that the applicant resided with him from December 1981 to June 1990 in Jersey City, New Jersey.

These affidavits fail to establish the applicant's continuous unlawful residence in the United States for the duration of the requisite period. As stated previously, the evidence must be evaluated not by the quantity of evidence alone but by its quality; 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.

Neither of the witness statements provide concrete information, specific to the applicant and generated by the asserted associations with him, which would reflect and corroborate the extent of those associations and demonstrate that they were a sufficient basis for reliable knowledge about the applicant's residence during the time addressed in the affidavits. To be considered probative and credible, witness affidavits must do more than simply state that an affiant knows an applicant and that the applicant has lived in the United States for a specific time period. Their content must include sufficient detail from a claimed relationship to indicate that the relationship probably did exist and that the witness does, by virtue of that relationship, have knowledge of the facts alleged. Upon review, the AAO finds that, individually and together, the witness statements do not indicate that their assertions are probably true. Therefore, they have little probative value.

The record of proceeding also contains copies of the applicant's passport, indicating that he entered the United States as a nonimmigrant visitor on numerous occasions.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he has established his continuous residence from January 1, 1982 to May 4, 1988. He makes reference to a letter from the Social Security Administration but the letter is not in the record. On a Form G-325A, which was signed by the applicant on October 8, 1993, the applicant indicated that he resided in Suriname from birth until July 1993. This inconsistency as to when he resided in the United States undermines the credibility of the applicant's

evidence and his claim that he resided continuously in the United States from a date prior to January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988.

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. It is incumbent upon the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth, in fact, lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. at 582.

In sum, the applicant did not provide sufficient probative evidence of having continuously resided in the United States during the statutory period.

Thus, it is found that the applicant has failed to establish continuous residence in an unlawful status in the United States from prior to January 1, 1982 through May 4, 1988. Accordingly, the applicant is not eligible for adjustment to permanent resident status under section 1104 of the LIFE Act.

The appeal shall be dismissed.

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