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U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OFFICE
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536

[redacted] to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

FILE: [redacted] Office: Miami Date: APR 24 2003

IN RE: Applicant: [redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Permanent Residence Pursuant to Section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act of November 2, 1966 (P.L. 89-732)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

[redacted]

PUBLIC COPY

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision 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.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (Bureau) where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. *Id.*

Any motion must be filed with the office that originally decided your case along with a fee of $110 as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.7.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Acting District Director, Miami, Florida, who certified his decision to the Administrative Appeals Office for review. The acting district director's decision will be affirmed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Colombia who filed this application for adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident under section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act of November 2, 1966. This Act provides, in pertinent part:

> [T]he status of any alien who is a native or citizen of Cuba and who has been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States subsequent to January 1, 1959 and has been physically present in the United States for at least one year, may be adjusted by the Attorney General, in his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe, to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien makes an application for such adjustment, and the alien is eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is admissible to the United States for permanent residence. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to the spouse and child of any alien described in this subsection, regardless of their citizenship and place of birth, who are residing with such alien in the United States.

The acting district director determined that the applicant was not eligible for adjustment of status as the stepchild of a native or citizen of Cuba, pursuant to section 1 of the Act of November 2, 1966, because she was over the age of 18 years at the time her mother married her Cuban spouse. The acting district director, therefore, denied the application.

The applicant has provided no statement or additional evidence on notice of certification.

The record reflects that the petitioner was born in Colombia on January 9, 1982. On November 25, 2000, the applicant's mother married [redacted] a native and citizen of Cuba and a lawful permanent resident of the United States, having adjusted his status under section 1 of the CAA. The acting district director denied the application after determining that the applicant was not a "child" for the purposes of section 1 of the Act of November 2, 1966, because she was over the age of 18 years at the time her mother married her Cuban spouse.

Pursuant to section 101(b) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(b), the term "child" means an unmarried person under 21 years of age. "Child" is also defined in section 101(b)(1)(B) of the Act to mean a stepchild, whether or not born out of wedlock, provided the child

had not reached the age of 18 years at the time the marriage creating the status of stepchild occurred.

The record reflects that the applicant turned 18 years of age on January 9, 2000, approximately ten months prior to the marriage of her mother to her Cuban spouse. The applicant, therefore, does not meet the definition of a "stepchild" as provided in section 101(b)(1)(B) of the Act. Therefore, the benefits of section 1 are not available to the applicant.

Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for adjustment of status to permanent residence, pursuant to section 1 of the Act of November 2, 1966. The decision of the acting district director to deny the application will be affirmed.

This decision is without prejudice to the filing of a Relative Immigrant Visa Petition (Form I-130) by the applicant's mother on behalf of the applicant.

ORDER: The acting district director's decision is affirmed.