U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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PUBLIC COPY

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

[redacted]

File: [redacted] Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA Date: FEB 28 2003

IN RE: Applicant: [redacted]

Application: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under Section 212(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(i)

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: SELF-REPRESENTED

Identifying data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

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 Service 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.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Miami, Florida, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Haiti who was found to be inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(i), for having sought to procure admission into the United States by fraud or willful misrepresentation. The applicant seeks a waiver of inadmissibility under section 212(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(i), in order to remain in the United States and adjust her status to that of a lawful permanent resident under the Haitian Refugee Immigrant Fairness Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277 (HRIFA).

The district director concluded that the applicant is ineligible for consideration of a waiver of inadmissibility under section 212(i) because she failed to establish that she is the daughter or spouse of a lawful permanent resident or citizen of the United States. The district director denied the application accordingly.

On appeal, the applicant states that she married a citizen of the United States on February 26, 2001. In support of the appeal, the applicant submits her marriage certificate and evidence that her spouse naturalized as a citizen of the United States on May 10, 1999.

The record reflects that the applicant sought to procure admission into the United States on January 17, 1995 by presenting a photo-substituted Bahamian passport.

Section 212(a) of the Act states:

> CLASSES OF ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS OR ADMISSION.- Except as otherwise provided in this Act, aliens who are inadmissible under the following paragraphs are ineligible to receive visas and ineligible to be admitted to the United States:
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> * * *
>
> (6) ILLEGAL ENTRANTS AND IMMIGRATION VIOLATORS.-
>
> * * *
>
> (C) MISREPRESENTATION.-
>
> (i) IN GENERAL.-Any alien who, by fraud or willfully misrepresenting a material fact, seeks to procure (or has sought to procure or has procured) a visa, other documentation, or admission into the United States or other

> benefit provided under this Act is inadmissible.

Section 902 of HRIFA provides that an applicant who is inadmissible under section 212(a)(6)(C) of the Act is ineligible for adjustment of status under HRIFA unless he or she receives a waiver of that ground of inadmissibility.

Section 212(i) of the Act states:

> ADMISSION OF IMMIGRANT INADMISSIBLE FOR FRAUD OR WILLFUL MISREPRESENTATION OF MATERIAL FACT.-
>
> (1) The Attorney General may, in the discretion of the Attorney General, waive the application of clause (i) of subsection (a)(6)(C) in the case of an alien who is the spouse, son or daughter of a United States citizen or of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if it is established to the satisfaction of the Attorney General that the refusal of admission to the United States of such immigrant alien would result in extreme hardship to the citizen or lawfully resident spouse or parent of such an alien.
>
> (2) No court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision or action of the Attorney General regarding a waiver under paragraph (1).

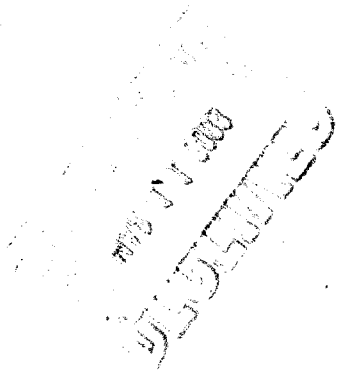
Sections 212(a)(6)(C) and 212(i) of the Act were amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Pub L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009. There is no longer any alternative provision for waiver of a section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) violation due to passage of time. In the absence of explicit statutory direction, an applicant's eligibility is determined under the statute in effect at the time his or her application is finally considered. *See Matter of Cervantes-Gonzalez*, 22 I&N Dec. 560 (BIA 1999).

If an amendment makes the statute more restrictive after the application is filed, the eligibility is determined under the terms of the amendment. Conversely, if the amendment makes the statute more generous, the application must be considered by more generous terms. *Matter of George and Lopez-Alvarez*, 11 I&N Dec. 419 (BIA 1965); *Matter of Leveque*, 12 I&N Dec. 633 (BIA 1968).

Section 212(i) of the Act provides that a waiver of the bar to admission resulting from section 212(a)(6)(C) of the Act is dependent first upon a showing that the bar imposes an extreme hardship on a qualifying family member. Although extreme hardship is a requirement for section 212(i) relief, once established, it is but one favorable discretionary factor to be considered. *See Matter of Mendez*, 21 I&N Dec. 296 (BIA 1996).

Although the applicant subsequently married a naturalized citizen of the United States, as of the date of filing her application for a waiver of inadmissibility, on March 8, 2000, she did not have a qualifying relationship and, therefore, was statutorily ineligible for the relief sought.

In proceedings for application for waiver of grounds of inadmissibility under section 212(i) of the Act, the burden of proving eligibility remains entirely with the applicant. *See Matter of T-S-Y-*, 7 I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1957). Here, the applicant has not met that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

The dismissal of the instant appeal does not preclude the filing of a new application, based on the applicant's recently acquired qualifying relationship with accompanying evidence to establish the hardship her spouse would suffer if she were removed from the United States.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.