



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

**Non-Precedent Decision of the
Administrative Appeals Office**

In Re: 35389083

Date: DEC. 16, 2024

Appeal of Vermont Service Center Decision

Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status

The Applicant seeks lawful permanent residency based on his “T-1” nonimmigrant status as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons under section 245(l) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1255(l). The Director of the Vermont Service Center denied the application and the matter is now before us on appeal pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.3.

The Applicant bears the burden of proof to demonstrate eligibility by a preponderance of the evidence. *Matter of Chawathe*, 25 I&N Dec. 369, 375-76 (AAO 2010). We review the questions in this matter de novo. *Matter of Christo’s, Inc.*, 26 I&N Dec. 537, 537 n.2 (AAO 2015). Upon de novo review, we will dismiss the appeal.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requires a valid signature on applications, petitions, requests, and certain other documents filed with USCIS, including the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(2) (explaining that an applicant or petitioner must sign their benefit request). For purposes of appeals and motions, the affected party must personally sign their own Form I-290B before filing it with USCIS. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(1)(iii)(B) (stating that the affected party is the person with legal standing in a proceeding). The Form I-290B instructions also specify that the affected party must sign the form, except in limited circumstances that are not at issue here. *Instructions for Form I-290B*, <https://www.uscis.gov/i-290b>. In general, attorneys and representatives may not sign a benefit request or associated documents for the affected party. *See generally* 1 *USCIS Policy Manual* B.2(C)(1), (D), <https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual>. According to USCIS policy, “[i]f USCIS accepts a request for adjudication and later determines that it has a deficient signature, USCIS denies the request.” *See generally* 1 *USCIS Policy Manual*, *supra*, at B.2(A).

In this case, counsel signed the Form I-290B at Part 4, Section A, 6.a. (“Applicant’s or Petitioner’s Signature”), Section B, 8.a. (“Petitioner’s Signature”), as well as at Part 6, 8.a. (“Preparer’s Signature”). The Applicant did not sign the Form I-290B. Accordingly, the Form I-290B does not contain the required signature and we must dismiss it.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.