



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

(b)(6)



DATE: **AUG 19 2015**

FILE: [REDACTED]
PETITION RECEIPT: [REDACTED]

IN RE: Petitioner: [REDACTED]
Beneficiary: [REDACTED]

PETITION: Petition for Alien Fiancé(e) Pursuant to § 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(K)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

NO REPRESENTATIVE OF RECORD

Enclosed is the non-precedent decision of the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) in your case.

If you believe we incorrectly decided your case, you may file a motion requesting us to reconsider our decision and/or reopen the proceeding. The requirements for motions are located at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. Motions must be filed on a Notice of Appeal or Motion (Form I-290B) **within 33 days of the date of this decision**. The Form I-290B web page (www.uscis.gov/i-290b) contains the latest information on fee, filing location, and other requirements. **Please do not mail any motions directly to the AAO.**

Thank you,

Ron Rosenberg
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, California Service Center, denied the nonimmigrant visa petition. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a citizen of the United States who seeks to classify the beneficiary, a native of a citizen of Senegal, as the fiancé of a U.S. citizen pursuant to § 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(K).

The director denied the Form I-129F, Petition for Alien Fiancé(e), pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(8)(ii), because the petitioner submitted evidence showing that she and the beneficiary were married on [REDACTED] prior to the time of filing the fiancée petition; therefore the beneficiary cannot be classified as the fiancée of a U.S. citizen.

Applicable Law

Section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(K) provides that subject to subsections (d) and (p) of section 214, nonimmigrant classification may be provided to an alien who:

- (i) is the fiancé(e) of a U.S. citizen and who seeks to enter the United States solely to conclude a valid marriage with that citizen within 90 days after admission;
- (ii) has concluded a valid marriage with a citizen of the United States who is the petitioner, is the beneficiary of a petition to accord a status under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) that was filed under section 204 by the petitioner, and seeks to enter the United States to await the approval of such petition and the availability to the alien of an immigrant visa; or
- (iii) is the minor child of an alien described in clause (i) or (ii) and is accompanying, or following to join, the alien.

Section 214(d) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1184(d), states, in pertinent part, that a fiancé(e) petition:

[S]hall be approved only after satisfactory evidence is submitted by the petitioner to establish that the parties have previously met in person within two years before the date of filing the petition, have a bona fide intention to marry, and are legally able and actually willing to conclude a valid marriage in the United States within a period of ninety days after the alien's arrival. . . .

A "fiancé(e)" is defined at Section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Act as:

subject to subsections (d) and (p) of section 214, an alien who -

(i) is the fiancée or fiancé of a citizen of the United States . . . and who seeks to enter the United States solely to conclude a valid marriage with the petitioner within ninety days after admission[.]

Section 214(d)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1184(d)(1), states in pertinent part that a fiancé(e) petition:

shall be approved only after satisfactory evidence is submitted by the petitioner to establish that the parties have previously met in person within 2 years before the date of filing the petition, have a bona fide intention to marry, and are legally able and actually willing to conclude a valid marriage in the United States within a period of ninety days after the alien's arrival, except that the Secretary of Homeland Security in his discretion may waive the requirement that the parties have previously met in person. . . .

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(8)(ii) states that if all required initial evidence is not submitted with the petition or does not demonstrate eligibility, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) may, in its discretion, deny the petition for lack of initial evidence. The specific requirements for filing a Form I-129F, including a description of the required initial evidence, may be found in the *Instructions* to the Form I-129F.

The petitioner filed the Form I-129F on September 8, 2014. The petitioner indicated on the Form I-129F that she and the beneficiary are unmarried. The record, however, includes a “Certificat de Mariage Constate,” translated as a “Marriage Confirmation Certificate,” dated May 14, 2013, issued by the Registrar of Public Records of [REDACTED] City of [REDACTED] Region of [REDACTED] Republic of Senegal. The certificate states that the petitioner and the beneficiary were married on [REDACTED] and that the marriage was recorded on May 13, 2013.

On appeal, the petitioner asserts that the document titled “Marriage Confirmation Certificate,” reflects a religious ceremony that occurred in the presence of their family members and religious officials. The record reflects, however, that the Marriage Confirmation Certificate is created for a civilly-registered marriage in Senegal, which is valid for U.S. immigration purposes. Moreover, the “Certificat de Mariage Constate” is a certificate issued after, rather than on the same day as, the celebration of a marriage. U.S. Department of State, *Senegal Reciprocity Schedule*, available at <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/fees/reciprocity-by-country/SG.html> [last accessed on August 14, 2015]. Without corroborative evidence the petitioner has not established that the civilly-registered marriage certificate does not reflect a valid marriage to the beneficiary. Going on record without supporting documentary evidence is not sufficient for purposes of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *Matter of Soffici*, 22 I&N Dec. 158, 165 (Comm. 1998) (citing *Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972)).

The petitioner's marriage to the beneficiary renders her ineligible for nonimmigrant benefits under § 101(a)(15)(K)(i) of the Act, which are limited to a fiancé of a U.S. citizen. Under section 214(d)(1) of the Act, the approval of Form I-129F requires the petitioner and the beneficiary to be “legally able . . . to conclude a valid marriage in the United States. . . .” Since the petitioner

and beneficiary are already married, the beneficiary is no longer eligible for nonimmigrant classification as a K-1 fiancée of a U.S. citizen.

8 C.F.R. § 214.2(k)(7) provides, in part:

To be classified as a K-3 spouse as defined in section 101(a)(15)(k)(ii) of the Act, . . . the alien spouse must be the beneficiary of an immigrant visa petition filed by a U.S. citizen on Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, and the beneficiary of an approved petition for a K-3 nonimmigrant visa filed on Form I-129F. . . .

The beneficiary may be eligible to apply for classification as a K-3 nonimmigrant. If the beneficiary seeks to be classified as a K-3 nonimmigrant, the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(k)(7) require that a Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, be approved prior to the proper filing of a Form I-129F on behalf of the beneficiary.

In these proceedings, the petitioner bears the burden of proof to establish her eligibility by a preponderance of the evidence. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361; *Matter of Chawathe*, 25 I&N Dec. 369, 375 (AAO 2010). Here, that burden has not been met. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed. The petition remains denied.