U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Non-Precedent Decision of the Administrative Appeals Office

In Re: 16341072

Date: DEC. 6, 2023

Appeal of Long Island Field Office Decision

Form I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission

The Applicant seeks permission to reapply for admission to the United States under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii), after having been previously ordered removed.

The record indicates that the Applicant was ordered removed from the United States in 1997. The Applicant was subsequently granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and obtained a Form I-512L, *Authorization for Parole of an Alien Into the United States*, pursuant to the TPS provisions in section 244(f)(3) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(f)(3), and corresponding regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.15(a). The Applicant then traveled abroad and returned to the United States with that document in 2019. In January 2020 she filed a Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485), seeking adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident.

The Director of the Long Island Field Office denied the Applicant's Form I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission (Form I-212), as a matter of discretion. The Director found that upon her return to the United States in 2019, the Applicant remained a TPS beneficiary subject to a final and unexecuted order of removal and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) was without jurisdiction to adjudicate her adjustment of status request.[1] The Director denied the Applicant's Form I-485 on the same basis. On appeal, the Applicant submits a brief and asserts that her departure from the United States effectuated the removal order, thus bringing finality to the removal proceedings against her and she is thus eligible for the benefit sought.

In these proceedings, it is the Applicant's burden to establish eligibility for the requested benefit by a preponderance of the evidence. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361; *Matter of Chawathe*, 25 I&N Dec. 369, 375-76 (AAO 2010). We review the questions in this matter de novo. *See Matter of Christo's Inc.*, 26 I&N Dec. 537, 537 n.2 (AAO 2015). Upon de novo review, we will dismiss the appeal.

[1] USCIS does not have jurisdiction to grant or deny a request for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Act in any case in which the noncitizen is a respondent in removal or deportation proceedings before EOIR unless the noncitizen has been placed in proceedings as an "arriving alien." 8 C.F.R. §§ 245.2(a)(1), 1245.2(a)(1).

Section 212(a)(9)(A)(ii) of the Act provides that a noncitizen who has been ordered removed or departed the United States while an order of removal was outstanding, and who seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such departure or removal, is inadmissible. A noncitizen who is inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(A)(ii) of the Act may seek permission to reapply for admission under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Act if prior to the date of the reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be admitted from foreign contiguous territory, the Secretary of Homeland Security has consented to the noncitizen's reapplying for admission.

The Applicant filed her application for permission to reapply with the Director concurrently with her Form I-485, and she indicated on the Form I-212 that she intends to adjust status in the United States. However, the Applicant has not demonstrated that she is eligible to adjust her status before USCIS. As the Director previously determined when denying the Applicant's Form I-485, the Applicant remains in removal proceedings on account of the removal order that an Immigration Judge issued in 1997. A TPS beneficiary who departs the United States after receiving prior travel authorization pursuant to section 244(f)(3) of the Act and returns with a valid travel document does not execute an outstanding final removal order and therefore remains in removal proceedings upon their return. *See Duarte v. Mayorkas*, 27 F.4th 1044, 1053-54 (5th Cir. 2022); *see also* 7 *USCIS Policy Manual* A.3(D) n. 23, https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual.

Because the Applicant remains in removal proceedings, USCIS does not have jurisdiction over her adjustment of status request and has denied her underlying Form I-485, and we will therefore dismiss the Applicant's appeal of the Form I-212 denial as a matter of discretion. *See Matter of Martinez-Torres*, 10 I&N Dec. 776, 776-77 (Reg'l Comm'r 1964); *see also I.N.S. v. Bagamasbad*, 429 U.S. 24, 25 (1976) ("As a general rule courts and agencies are not required to make findings on issues the decision of which is unnecessary to the results they reach.").

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.