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DOCUMENTS TO PROVE HARDSHIP

BY: JOSEPH B. CARACCIO

1. If applicable, a copy of your deed or mortgage documenting property ownership or a rental agreement/lease;
2. Copies of ALL monthly bills (cell phone, gas, electric, cable, etc.);
3. If you are married, a marriage certificate;
4. If you have children, birth certificates for each child;
5. If your spouse or parent suffers from any special needs such as: medical conditions, special education needs, learning disabilities, or psychological problems, we need a doctor's letter describing the condition and setting out the kind of treatment received and medical records documenting the condition including: hospital visits, doctor visits, surgeries or procedures, any medications and any other treatment;
6. Proof of citizenship or Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status of your spouse/parent. This can be a certificate of naturalization or a U.S. birth certificate for a citizen. A photocopy of LPR card ("green card") for a LPR.
7. At least three (3) affidavits from people that know you and your relationship to your spouse/parent, such as friends, relatives, co-workers, etc. An affidavit is basically a letter that is notarized. In some cases it may not be possible to get a letter notarized, in which case you should still provide the letter but it notarized letters are preferred. If the letter is on official company letterhead it need not be notarized. Each affidavit should have the author's name, address, phone number. The affidavit should focus on your relationship with your family, your ties to the community, and the hardships your family will face if you are removed from the country. The author should also be sure to discuss

your character. Any family members or close friends should include together with their affidavit, a copy of their green card, naturalization certificate or U.S. passport, or birth certificate (if U.S. citizen born in the U.S.). The length and detail of these affidavits will obviously vary depending on the author's relationship to you or your family. Family members and close friends with first hand knowledge should provide more detailed affidavits. Friends, community members, and co-workers can simply provide a character reference;

8. An affidavit from your USC or LPR spouse/parent explaining the hardship they will face if you are removed. They should draft an affidavit on their own in the language they are most comfortable in. This is their opportunity to plead their case so they should provide details and speak from the heart. After they complete an initial draft I will review it with them to make any necessary edits;
9. An affidavit from your employer confirming your current employment and job performance (same for spouse/parent);
10. If applicable, an affidavit from each of your children and step-children old enough to write describing their relationship with you and any hardship they will face if you are removed;
11. Any ties to the community including: membership to any community organizations, proof of long-term residence in the same neighborhood, or presence of family. If your extended family lives with you or in your community have them write affidavits stating that;
12. An affidavit from your church or place of worship stating you attend mass or are a member of the congregation and are a person of good character;
13. Copies of recent pay stubs (for applicant and spouse/parent);
14. Copies of tax returns for all of the years in which you have filed and paid taxes. You should also try to obtain tax transcripts from the IRS directly by contacting the IRS at 800-829-1040;
15. Diplomas, degrees, or certificates received by you for any formal education or training program you completed in the U.S.;
16. If you are presently enrolled in school please provide proof of your enrollment and attendance;

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17. School records of all your children including awards, certificates, diplomas, progress reports, report cards, etc. If any of your children suffer from a learning disability, medical condition, or psychological condition provide us with any and all documentation of their special need;
18. If applicable, proof that your spouse, children, or parents receive health insurance through you or you pay some money toward their health insurance;
19. If applicable, a letter from any community group or organization in which you may have assisted or helped others;
20. If you suffer from any special needs such as: medical conditions, special education needs, learning disabilities, or psychological problems, we need a doctor's letter describing the condition and setting out the kind of treatment received and medical records documenting the condition;
21. If applicable, original certificates of dispositions for any time you have been arrested.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

www.601awaivers.com

www.NYImmigrationLawyers.org

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