

AMERICAN EMBASSY, CONSULAR SECTION, LONDON, ENGLAND.

EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT IN CASES OF PERSONS DESIROUS OF JOINING RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES.

A. AFFIDAVITS.

In the case of an applicant proceeding to join one or more near relatives or a fiancé in the United States, upon whom he or she would be dependent for support, it is suggested that an affidavit, as described below, be prepared in duplicate by each of such relatives and legally executed before a Notary Public. It is emphasized that, in general, substantial weight can be given to the affidavits of **very near relatives only**, as it will readily be understood that little or no moral responsibility for an immigrant can be or is attached to distant relatives or mere friends, unless special circumstances meriting consideration are fully explained.

To be most useful, relatives' affidavits should cover the following points:—

1. The name and address of the sponsor and a statement of his relationship to the alien.
2. The citizenship of the sponsor and, if he is an alien, the place and date of legal admission to the United States and the name of the vessel that bore him to that port. (See also Section C below.) If the sponsor is an American citizen, he should state how citizenship was acquired, whether by birth or naturalization in the United States. A naturalized American citizen should state the time and place of naturalization, the name of the Court that naturalized him, and the number of his naturalization certificate.
3. The yearly salary and the yearly income of the sponsor, supported as described in "B" below.
4. Amount of present bank deposits.
5. Market value of other property, including stocks, bonds or real estate. If there is an encumbrance on the real estate, the amount should be stated.
6. A statement as to whether the sponsor has dependants and, if so, their sex and ages.
7. A statement as to whether any sort of employment has been arranged for the applicant.
8. An assurance that the sponsor is able and willing to support the applicant for as long a time as necessary and a solemn guarantee that the sponsor will not permit the applicant to become a burden on charity or a public charge if admitted to the United States.
9. In the case of a fiancé, a solemn declaration of intention to marry immediately upon the arrival of the fiancé in the United States.
10. In the event a person in the United States is sponsoring the case of a visa applicant to whom he is under no legal or moral obligation to support, the sponsor should outline exactly what plans have been or will be made for the alien's economic rehabilitation following admission into the United States, citing particularly the extent to which the sponsor is prepared to assist the alien in a business venture or alternatively to contribute to his support for what might be an indefinite period of time. The sponsor should also touch upon the reasons which prompt him to undertake the burden of the alien's support in the absence of a legal or moral obligation to do so. Moreover, the sponsor should give the names, ages, present whereabouts, and economic conditions of any other visa applicants he has agreed to assist.

In order to adjudge whether or not the visa applicant is likely to become a public charge if admitted into the United States for permanent residence it is essential that the examining consular officer be apprised of all pertinent factors bearing upon the support which the visa applicant contends is assured to him in the United States. It is not alone sufficient that the sponsor prove his ability to support the applicant; the evidence presented should clearly establish that in all probability the sponsor will actually do so as long as the need therefor exists.

Obviously, a visa applicant who has sufficient capital funds of his own to insure the indefinite support of himself and family is in no need of an assurance of assistance from a person or persons in the United States.

In the event the sponsor in the United States does not feel that the reasons which he can advance for desiring to support the visa applicant will likely convince the examining consular officer that his present interest in the alien's welfare can be depended upon to continue for a protracted period, and the sponsor is nevertheless prepared at this time to make tangible contribution to insure the alien's support in the United States until the alien could reasonably be expected to become self-supporting, the sponsor might advisedly consider the question of establishing with a reputable financial institution an irrevocable trust fund or a similar irrevocable credit account in the alien's favour providing for periodical payments to the alien sufficient to meet the necessities of life. The amount of the periodical payments and the length of time for which they should continue will, of course, depend upon the age, capabilities, dependants and other pertinent factors touching upon the alien's ability to earn a living in the United States.