

Untangling The Law

by R. Reis Pagtakhan, LL.B., B.A. (Hons.)
rpp@aikins.com



Why details can make or break a permanent resident visa

In all applications for permanent residency, applicants must be truthful. If an applicant is not truthful, he or she can be found to have made a "misrepresentation". This can lead to the refusal of a Permanent Residency Visa.

Often times, people leave gaps in their employment or address history. Applicants sometimes forget to list an employer or address from years ago. While many immigration officers will allow individuals to correct these errors, errors can be found to be misrepresentations which can result not only in a visa being refused but a person being barred from applying to Canada for some time.

Can incorrect information in my address history really result in a refused visa?

In a recent Court case, an applicant changed his address history from what he stated in a previous application. When asked about the differences, the applicant indicated that the changes were as a result of problems with interpretation.

The immigration officer did not believe the explanation and stated that the applicant was responsible for the accuracy of the information. The officer also pointed out that the applicant signed a declaration that the old application was truthful, complete and correct. Because the applicant made no statement at the time of his immigration interview that there were errors in the old application, the officer found that he misrepresented his addresses. When this matter went to court, the judge agreed that this was a misrepresentation.

Can incorrect information in my employment history really result in a refused visa?

In the same case, the officer also found that the applicant misrepresented his employment history. In the application, a different occupation was claimed than was later disclosed. The applicant could not provide supporting evidence of his occupation and the officer found that there was a misrepresentation in the employment history. The judge agreed.

While there were other issues that may have caused more troubles for this particular applicant (the individual also had a criminal history), this case clearly indicates that misrepresentations in address and personal/work history can result in immigration applications being refused.

What can I do to avoid these problems?

When any immigration application is filed, it is essential that the answers be full and truthful. In the event that an applicant cannot recall all of the information precisely, it should be indicated that errors could be or are present.

While the applicant in this case was allowed to have the case re-determined by immigration on another matter, being truthful and accurate in an application is extremely important.

This article is prepared for general information purposes only and is intended to provide comments for readers and friends of the Filipino Journal. The contents should not be viewed as legal advice or opinion.

Reis is a lawyer with Aikins Law and practices in the areas of immigration law. His direct line is 957-4640. If you would like to know more about Reis or Aikins you can visit the firm's web page at www.aikins.com, follow Reis on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/ImmigrationReis>, or connect with him on LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/in/reispagtakhan>

World chess body awards GM title to Sadorra

The Fédération Internationale des Échecs or World Chess Federation has confirmed the grandmaster title of Filipino Julio Catalino Sadorra during the FIDE second quarter presidential board meeting in Al Ain, UAE early this month.

The US-based Sadorra, a sophomore at the University of Texas-Dallas majoring in Applied Mathematics, earned his third and final GM norm in the UT Dallas Grandmaster Invitational tournament last March.

The confirmation from the chess governing body, more popularly known by its French acronym FIDE, has made Sadorra the 14th Filipino GM. He thus joined the country's elite circle of GMs that includes the prodigy Wesley So, Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio, Nelson Mariano II, Jayson Gonzales, Bong Villamayor, Rogelio Barcenilla Jr., Mark Paragua, John Paul Gomez, Darwin Laylo, Joseph Sanchez, Roland Salvador and the late Rosendo Balinas.

On the distaff side, FIDE also confirmed the Women International Master titles to Chadine Cheradée Camacho and Catherine Perena. Other Filipino WIMs are Girmie Fontanilla, Cristine Rose Mariano, Beverly Mendoza and Fil-Aussie Arianne Caoili.

Meanwhile, Asia's first grandmaster Eugene Torre expressed his willingness to help in the preparation of the Philippine

chess team vying for the gold in the 26th Southeast Asian Games slated Nov. 11-25 in Palembang and Jakarta, Indonesia.

The 59-year-old Torre also clarified he isn't retiring yet, as he is still eyeing a spot in the team that will compete in the 2012 World Chess Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey.

Torre holds the record of 19 consecutive Olympiad stints after the 2006 Turin meet. He bested the 18 appearances of Finland's Heikki Westerinen. Torre is currently tied with former World Championship challenger GM Lajos Portisch of Hungary with most number of non-consecutive appearances with 20.

The country's best finish in the chess Olympiad was in the 1988 Thessaloniki Olympiad where the Philippines placed seventh.



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