



Declaration in support of I-130 Petition

I, [REDACTED], make this declaration in support of the I-130 petition filed by my husband:

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
2. On November 11, 2017 I came to the United States to visit. My life in India had gotten very difficult because I was being persecuted by my former-in-laws because they were angry that I was of a lower caste. They also saw me as vulnerable because I was a widow who depended on them and had a young son. I needed some space to myself. After I arrived in the United States my in-laws told me that if I came back then my life would be in danger. I decided to stay in the United States.
3. [REDACTED] and I request a bona fide marriage exemption under 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(a)(1)(iii)(A). Although we married after I was placed in removal proceedings, we married for reasons unrelated to immigration matters.
4. I married my husband, [REDACTED], on July 11, 2019.
5. Shortly after I came to the United States, I first met [REDACTED] in November 2017. He worked at the 711 near where I lived. I don't clearly remember the first time that I met him in the store because he was a clerk and I was a customer, but gradually we talked a little bit here and there.
6. In December 2017 I was in the store and [REDACTED] asked for my phone number. I was happy to give him my number because I didn't have anyone in the United States, and I thought that it would be nice to make a friend.
7. [REDACTED] and I started texting about work and what was going on. I got to know him better. He was a very quiet person, but he was also honest and blunt. He didn't sugar coat things or lie. We also continued to see each other at the store. I was attracted to [REDACTED]. He's very soft-spoken and nice. I also liked his tattoos and his demeanor.

8. After a while, around January 2018, [REDACTED] asked if I had a boyfriend. I told that I didn't, and he asked if I wanted to meet up outside of the store. The first time we met up we just talked outside of the store. Then we kissed each other. I liked [REDACTED], but I had a lot going on. It was a new country, and he was a new person from a different background and lifestyle, so I wanted to keep our relationship more casual. After a few more conversations we decided to be "friends with benefits." We were friends who spent a lot of time with each other, but we kept everything open-ended.
9. Over time we got closer. We spent more time together and I developed feelings for [REDACTED]. I thought about him all the time and we talked constantly. I realized that I had fallen in love with him. He was sweet and honest, and I enjoyed spending time with him. Our time together was amazing.
10. In March or April [REDACTED] and I became a couple. We realized that our relationship was more than just friends and that we wanted to be together. I met his mom, who also worked at the 711. I was so nervous to meet one [REDACTED]'s parents; it was serious. [REDACTED]'s mom was polite but I was still nervous. But after a while we started talking and got closer too.
11. Before November of 2018 I had an arrangement with the hotel where I worked that cleaned and cooked and did things to pay my rent. Then in November 2018 I got my work permit and I was working a lot more shifts. I was working nights, but [REDACTED] and I spent as much time together as possible. Sometimes we went for to see a movie, other times we went to breakfast or just for a drive.
12. Our relationship got stronger. But work was a problem because our schedules conflicted. We seemed to always be only sleeping or at work. Around January 2019 we started talking about moving in together so we could spend more time with each other. It seemed like the next step in our relationship.
13. [REDACTED] was still living with his parents. We talked about how I could move in with him and his parents, but we also talked about how if his parents weren't okay with that then maybe we would get his own place. But [REDACTED] talked to his parents and his mom was excited. She kept saying how she didn't want to be the only girl in the house anymore.
14. I moved in with [REDACTED] and his parents in May of 2019. At that point we already had the idea to maybe get married. We were on the same page. After I moved in, we started talking more seriously about saving for a party. We talked about dates, and in my religion, there are certain dates on the calendar that are good for a wedding. I started looking for dates. I told

█████ about a couple of different dates and he was very keen on July 13, 2019 because it was a Saturday and people would be able to attend. It wasn't my favorite date, but he liked it so that was the date we were going with.

15. █████'s mom's health suddenly got very sick. At first it was just a little sick but then she was really sick. We told her about the wedding to cheer her up and she was going to be the officiant. But then she just got worse and worse. It was so sudden. █████'s mom passed away on June 28, 2019.
16. It was so shocking and sudden when █████'s mom died. I remembered that it was so quiet in the house without her. She and I spent the mornings together and it was hard to have her there.
17. After █████'s mom died, he didn't care as much about a Saturday wedding. I had always July 11 date better, and we started talking about having a courthouse since his mom couldn't officiate. We changed our date to July 11, 2019.
18. My bosses and █████'s dad came to the courthouse wedding. We dressed up, but it the legal wedding, and we didn't have all the clothing and flowers and everything.
19. After the legal wedding we wanted to have another ceremony with family and friends. █████'s dad suggested October 26, 2019 because it was his anniversary with █████'s mom. On that day we had the wedding ceremony in the yard with our friends and family. First, we had the memorial for █████'s mom, and then we had the ceremony. I had a wedding dress and flowers. █████'s aunt helped me to plan and decorate.
20. Having █████ in my life is good. Now I have someone who is there for me. We share everything together, even discussing what to have for breakfast and what to have for dinner. █████ respects me and my religion and treats me well. █████ makes me happy. He takes care of me when I'm not feeling well and makes me feel important. He drives me to work whenever he can. I'm excited about the life that we are going to have together.