



Declaration in support of I-130 Petition

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

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in Las Vegas, Nevada.
2. I married my wife, [REDACTED] on July 11, 2019, in Las Vegas, Nevada, in good faith.
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 she was placed in removal proceedings, we married for reasons unrelated to immigration matters.
4. I first met [REDACTED] in November 2017, shortly after she came to the United States. She was living at the Gateway Motel, which is across the street from the 711 where I worked. I remember the first time I saw her. I was working a graveyard shift by myself and she came in for coffee. I noticed because she was a new face. I have a good facial memory and I remember my regulars. We didn't talk that day beyond a casual clerk/customer conversation.
5. [REDACTED] started coming in for coffee pretty much every day. We talked casually and I learned what kind of coffee she liked and what cigarettes she smoked. I learned that she didn't eat meat because she's Hindi and didn't like the smell of pork and fish.
6. Around [REDACTED]'s tenth visit, maybe two weeks after her first visit, I asked for her phone number. She gave it to me, and we started texting. We talked more and got to know each other as friends. I remember that she went by a nickname, [REDACTED], because most people can't pronounce her name. The next time I saw her she was impressed because I pronounced her name right.
7. Our relationship still stayed mostly as casual friends, but we were getting closer and were very attracted to each other and started a "friends with benefits" relationship. We were still open to other relationships as well. Eventually our relationship progressed and around April

or May we became a couple. I remember that I had mentioned another woman and [REDACTED] walked out of the store really upset. I realized that our relationship was more than just friends. Over the next few weeks we moved into a more committed relationship that was not open.

8. At that point I introduced [REDACTED] to my mom, who also worked at the 711. I wanted her to meet my mom because she was my girl and that's what your supposed to do. I remember that [REDACTED] had to work to earn my mom's trust. I had a previous ex that my mom didn't like and it affected everything.
9. [REDACTED] had an arrangement with the hotel where she worked that she did cleaning and cooking in exchange for her rent. But once she got her work permit, the hotel hired her at the front desk, and they scheduled her for seven days a week. I also worked six days a week, so that made it hard for us to go on dates. But we still spent a lot of time with each other.
10. We wanted to live together so that we could spend more time together. I lived with my parents at this time, and my dad's rule was always that no woman could move in with me while I lived with him. But my mom grew to really like [REDACTED] and told my dad that she was different.
11. [REDACTED] moved in with me and my parents in May of 2019. We had already been talking, here and there, about getting married. [REDACTED] started looking for lucky days on the Hindi calendar. We chose July 13, 2019, which was a Saturday.
12. As soon as [REDACTED] moved in, my mom started pestering me about when we were going to get married. She and [REDACTED] had a really good relationship and spent a lot of time together. They were really close.
13. In June 2019 my mom got sick. It started off with food poisoning, but then she developed a kidney stone, and then pneumonia, which led to meningitis. Around the time that she got the kidney stone, we told my mom that we were getting married on July 13, 2019 so she had to get better so she could do the ceremony (she was a licensed minister). But my mom only got sicker and she passed away on June 28, 2019.
14. We were devastated when my mom died. Not only was it really hard for us as a family, but it also changed our wedding plans. Without my mom to officiate, the cost of a chapel wedding would be more expensive then we could afford. We decided to have a courthouse wedding, which meant that we needed a weekday date. [REDACTED] found out that July 11 was lucky too, so we chose that date.

15. My dad and [REDACTED]'s bosses came to the courthouse wedding. The ceremony was fairly lowkey. We dressed up nicely, but it wasn't a "wedding."
16. On October 26, 2019 we had a memorial for my mom and also a more formal wedding ceremony. It was also my parent's wedding anniversary, so this was an important. That was the date that we dressed up in a suit and wedding dress. My friend, [REDACTED], who is like a sister to me, officiated our second wedding. Even though we were already legally married, [REDACTED] got a minister's license to do the wedding.
17. We had the ceremony and party at our house, in the backyard. My uncle made a trellis and we had our friends and family with us.
18. My life is different now that I have [REDACTED]. She makes me happy. She supports me and tries to help me to succeed and do well. [REDACTED] is a good daughter to my dad and is an important part of our family. I can't imagine my life without her.