

I, Julya (née), being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I was born on June, 1971, in the city of, Republic of Uzbekistan.

2. I last entered the United States as a visitor, on September .., 1997. On the basis of my marriage to U.S. citizen Dmitriy - I had married Dmitriy on a previous trip to the U.S., on December .., 1996 - I am now a permanent resident alien. My alien registration number is A.. ... We have two children, both born in Brooklyn, N.Y.: Samuel, born on May .., 1998, and Inga, born on February .., 2002. I am a medical doctor, having passed the Israeli Medical Boards in Tel Aviv, Israel, on December .., 1996.

3. I currently reside at, Staten Island, N.Y. 11214. My home telephone number is 718/...-.... and my cellphone number is 917/...-....

4. I am making this statement in support of the application for permanent resident status of my friend Tatyana

5. I first met Tatyana (whom I call in person Tanya, following the Russian custom of using diminutives to describe people affectionately), on June .., 2000, at a "Baby-Naming" party thrown by my friends Ilana and Stanley, in honor of their daughter, who had been born in the previous month. The party was held at theRestaurant in the Brighton Beach area of Brooklyn, N.Y. That restaurant was selected because everyone knew it to be a good restaurant, based upon "insider information": my husband was working there as a waiter at that time.

6. It was at this party that I first met Tatyana. I had already heard so many good things about Tatyana from Ilana - they were friends from childhood - that I felt close to Tatyana even before meeting her. She was just as nice a person as I expected her to be and we became friends instantly.

7. At this party I also met Barry for the first time, just as Tatyana was meeting him for the first time. I observed that Barry paid a lot of attention to Tatyana and that she seemed quite pleased by that.

8. Upon Tatyana's arrival in the United States at Ilana's invitation, on June .., 2000, Ilana and Stanley invited her to live with them at their home in Staten Island, at Place, on the same block where I live. Because our residences were so near one another, I saw Tatyana almost every day, and we became very close friends, and have remained so.

9. During this period of time, Barry began courting Tatyana. He would come to visit her frequently at Ilana's home; in fact, he was there nearly every evening, spending 2 or 3 hours each time. Although they spoke different languages and could barely communicate in a conventional way, they got along well anyway, and liked each other very much. From conversations I had with Tatyana at that time I know that she was lonely – she had left behind her mother, father, and sister in Russia – and so she was gratified and thrilled by all the affectionate attention Barry was giving her.

10. After a few months Barry proposed to Tatyana and she accepted. They were married in November of 2000. Unfortunately, Dmitriy and I could not attend the wedding – I had to take care of my infant son, and Dmitriy kept me company, he and I having agreed to attend such grand occasions only if we could be together – but I learned all about it from Ilana and Tatyana. After the wedding, Tatyana and Barry moved into the home of Ilana and Stanley, where they lived for several months. Like other friends of Tatyana and Ilana, I did not approve of this situation, because I thought it was a burden on Ilana and Stanley; also, I thought Barry should be a better provider for Tatyana and live with her in an apartment of their own.

11. In the beginning of spring, 2001, Barry and Tatyana finally moved out of Diane's home, to an apartment in Brooklyn, N.Y. Due to financial constraints, the apartment was still not really their own: they moved into a room in the apartment of another couple and shared living expenses with them. Now that Tatyana lived a fair distance from me, we did not see each other very often, but we did communicate by telephone.

12. When I met Tatyana about three months later, she looked and acted very depressed. She told me that Barry had disappeared about three weeks before and that she had tried every way to find him but could not. She told me that he had disappeared on several occasions before, but that these disappearances had lasted just 2 or 3 days – not that such “limited” disappearances had been any fun for her at all; on the contrary, they took a serious toll on her psyche, producing a misery which the latest disappearance could only reinforce.

13. When I spoke to Tatyana on the telephone in August of 2001, she told me that Barry had finally returned. He told her that he had spent the intervening time in jail, but refused to explain how he wound up there. As if this wasn't bad enough news, soon after that he told Tatyana that he had a six year old boy from a previous relationship and asked her to help him make the child support payments he owed. Tatyana was very shaken by this news. She really needed the support of her friends at this time and I did everything I could to be there for her.

14. After disappearing without a word for months, Barry showed up at Tatyana's birthday party, on December .., 2001, quite unexpectedly. Tatyana was living by then in a new apartment, but Barry had persuaded Tatyana's roommate from her old apartment, Inna, to give him Tatyana's new address. He fooled Tatyana with all kinds of promises into taking him back, but, as he had done so often before, he disappeared again, the next month, right after he got Tatyana to sign a joint tax return that resulted in financial benefits to him. She hasn't heard from him since.

15. I can verify from direct experience that Barry and Tatyana loved each from the beginning and that this was the reason they got married. I blame Barry for their breakup: he is apparently a person of weak moral character, who abused her love and ruined their marriage.

Julya

Sworn to before me this
day of May, 2003

Notary Public