

I, Lyudmila, being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. I was born on June 29, 19.., in the city of Grodno, Belarus.

2. I currently reside in the United States, at Beach ..th Street, Apt. ..., Far Rockaway, N.Y. 11691. My home telephone number is 718/...-....; I am also reachable on my cellphone at 917/...-.....

3. Based on my marriage, on December .., 1999 to U.S. citizen Grzegorz, , I received an immigrant visa at the American Embassy in Warsaw, Poland, on December .., 2000. Upon my first arrival to the U.S., on April .., 2001, I was admitted to the United States as a conditional permanent resident alien. My alien registration number is A..

4. I am making this affidavit in support of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (hereinafter, INS) Form I-751, Petition to Remove the Conditions on Residence, that my husband and I are jointly filing at this time.

5. Grzegorz is jointly supporting this Petition because, despite the difficulties we have had in our marriage, we continue to love each other and we hope and plan to have a normal life together in the future. This love was there at the start of our relationship, and was the reason we got married in the first place.

6. Grzegorz and I first met in the autumn of 1999, in my native city of Grodno. Grzegorz was visiting his friends Sergey and Tatyana, in Grodno, before visiting his family in Poland. Tatyana was an English

teacher of Emma, a friend of mine. It was Emma who introduced me to Grzegorz. Grzegorz and I fell in love immediately and got married soon after that. We spent our honeymoon with his family. After our honeymoon, which lasted about one month, Grzegorz returned to the United States while I went back to Belarus. There were two compelling reasons I needed to stay in Belarus and could not immediately travel with Grzegorz to the U.S. My initial reason was that I had a son by a prior marriage whom it was my responsibility to look after. My son was only 16 at this time and was still in school, where he was an excellent and popular student. However, my son spoke no English and it would have been traumatic for him to relocate to the U.S. at that time. Adding to my responsibilities was the fact that my elderly father fell ill in the spring of 2000, and underwent needed surgery, and his recuperation took a long time, during which time he was very much dependent on me.

7. During this period of time, which lasted from January of 2000 to April of 2001, while my husband lived in the U.S. but I had to remain in Belarus, he visited me twice once in August of 2000 and once again in December 2000 through January 2001. It was during the second visit that he came with me to, and was present at, my interview at the American Consulate in Warsaw. I was very happy to have such a loyal and supportive husband. Not only was he good to me, he was also kind to my son and to my other relatives, including my ailing father, helping to support us financially and morally, frequently sending us money and packages of clothing and other necessities. As evidence of Grzegorz's kindness, attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 1 and made a part hereof are copies of Western Union Money Transfers Grzegorz sent to me, dated January 18, 2001; January 27, 2001; February 5, 2001; February 10, 2001; February 16, 2001; March 4, 2001; and April 14, 2001.

8. Even though we were physically separated, and missed each other very much, our constant communication by telephone, as well as his two visits to me, made the separation bearable. Finally, on April 18, 2001, as soon as it became practical to do so, I left Belarus and came to live with my husband in the United States. He was working for a moving company in North Charleston, South Carolina, so I joined him there, and so we lived in North Charleston until June of 2001. We were quite happy during this time.

9. In June of 2001 we moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., to the area of Brighton Beach, and that was the beginning of our unhappiness. Since the day we began living in this community in Brooklyn, my husband started drinking alcohol excessively, each and every day. Under the bad influence of alcohol, he became abusive: he argued with me about petty matters, and cursed me and screamed at me for no good reason. I would try to calm him down and reason with him: I begged him to get off alcohol, to stop staying at home all the time, find a regular job, and resume a normal life with me. My begging was useless.

10. On June .., 2001, Grzegorz took a lot of tranquilizers and washed them down with vodka. It may be hard to believe, but I was actually home at the time, yet I could not stop him from committing such a terrible act: he was so drunk and belligerent, it would have been dangerous to try to stop him. As a result of combining the drugs and alcohol, he was in such an awful state he did not even recognize me. I called 911 and both an ambulance and a police car came. I rode with Grzegorz in the ambulance to the emergency room of Coney Island Hospital, in Brooklyn, N.Y. That is when I first found out that Grzegorz had had such drug and alcohol problems in the past, before he ever met me.

11. I knew that I had to survive and that I did not want to leave my husband, who, I realized, needed me more than ever. During the next few days I looked for a job and found one working at a supermarket. One day I returned home and found Grzegorz there, already drunk. He became aggressive towards me immediately. It was obvious that, for my own safety, I could not continue to live with him while he was in such a state of mind.

12. I moved into the apartment of my longtime friend Irena, in Far Rockaway, N.Y. The same week I moved in with her I felt calm enough to start taking a three-week home attendant training course, given in my old neighborhood of Brighton Beach. While I felt I could not safely live with Grzegorz at this time, I did feel safe enough to visit him at our apartment, and did so every day, during my break from training. While I was with Grzegorz, I would renew my request that he stop drinking and start living a normal life. He did not listen to me.

13. At the beginning of July of 2001 I received a telephone call from the Psychiatric Unit of Coney Island Hospital. Grzegorz knew Irena's telephone number and had arranged for a social worker at the Hospital to call me. That is how I first learned that Grzegorz had been psychiatrically hospitalized and was staying in this Unit as an inpatient. I spoke with Grzegorz's social worker,, who told me that my husband needed a prolonged medical treatment, that could take as long as two years or even more. Since we still cared for each other very much, I called him every day while he was at this Hospital. When Grzegorz was transferred to the South Beach Psychiatric Center, in November of 2001, I continued this practice of calling him every day. When I saw that his attitude towards me had improved, I began visiting Grzegorz at the South

Beach Center. The most important visit was on January .., 2003: it was a cold, but bright and sunny day, and we spoke with each other for a long time and I saw that he was beginning to emerge from his sickness. I was thankful that he was in better shape than the shape he had been in when he was first admitted to the emergency room of the Coney Island Hospital.

14. On that day I also met with Grzegorz's social worker, Mr. , and with the Center's Treatment Team Leader, Mr. I learned that Grzegorz was definitely showing some improvement, but that he was still quite ill, so that it could be a matter of six months or even longer before he could be safely discharged. Mr. and Mr. further explained that, in addition to their need to see Grzegorz gain a better understanding of, and control over, his negative feelings and attitudes, the two main problems that they had to address before they were comfortable in discharging him were helping him to find a suitable place to live and, ideally, arranging for him to have a job waiting for him upon his discharge.

15. With respect to their preference that Grzegorz be employed upon his discharge, Mr. and Mr. told me that the Center had access to prospective employers, and that it was part of Grzegorz's therapy and return to normal functioning that he himself looked for work, using the Center's resources. With respect to the requirement of a suitable place for Grzegorz to live, I told them that all I can afford to do at this time is what I am doing, namely subletting a room in someone else's apartment. Given how cramped this apartment situation already is, where the couple that are subletting this room to me are occupying the rest of this small apartment, I know that they would never accept Grzegorz's sharing of that room with me. Besides, I was concerned, I

said, by such a confined arrangement, where Grzegorz and I could easily get on each other's nerves, something that could happen even if we were an ideal couple without a history of problems. If the Center can find a suitable place for Grzegorz to live in, temporarily, upon his discharge, my hope is that he will earn enough on a new job so that when we combine our incomes we can afford a normal-sized apartment where we can live in some comfort and, I hope and dream, we can return to the happiness we once shared.

Lyudmila

Sworn to before me this
day of March, 2003

Notary Public