

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

1. I was born Oxana, in the city of, Republic of Moldova, on June 23, I use my married name,, in all matters, ever since I married my husband, Joseph, on July 26, 1997, in the city of Las Vegas, State of Nevada.

2. I first came to the United States on May 10, 1995. I became a permanent resident alien on April 20, 1999. My alien registration number is A..... Attached to this affidavit and made a part of it is a copy of my alien registration card.

3. Since March of this year, my husband and I have resided at in Maplewood, N.J. 07040. Our telephone number is 973/.....

4. I am making this affidavit in support of the petition that my friend, Maria, is filing at this time with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (I.N.S.), namely I.N.S. Form I-751, Petition to Remove the Conditions on Residence.

5. I know for a fact that Maria's marriage to Larry (whom everyone calls "Skip," so I will too) was real and genuine and entered into in good faith because I and my husband were the ones who introduced Maria to Skip and we were friends with Maria and Skip while they were dating, when they got married, and for a substantial portion of their marriage. We remain friends with Maria. We are no longer friends with Skip because, in the first place, he began to mistreat Maria and, in the second place, he abandoned her and essentially disappeared; we have not

known his whereabouts for a long time and we do not even know how to find him, even if we wanted to, which we do not. It is not for nothing that he is called Skip.

6. I first met Maria in December of 1996, at her apartment in Manalapan, New Jersey. We were introduced by a mutual friend of ours, Karolina Karolina at that time lived in the house across the street from me, in Matawan, N.J. Maria and I liked each other right away and quickly became good friends. We would meet to go shopping; we'd go to movies and restaurants together; we would visit each other's apartments; and we would also visit Karolina together, at her home. In fact, it was because of Maria that I met the man who became my husband, Joseph ("Joe") This happened at the end of April, 1997, when I invited Maria to go out with me and a Russian friend of mine; she said okay, but also asked me to arrange for my friend to bring along a friend of his, so that we could double-date, and the friend he brought along turned out to be Joe. Maria was not romantically interested in either of my friends, but I was immediately taken with Joe: "love at first sight," and, thankfully, it was mutual.

7. Before I first met Joe, he had already struck up a casual friendship with Skip, beginning around June of 1996. This came about because Joe used to wash his car at a place called, in Union, N.J., where Skip used to work. One day - it was in the spring of 1997, in June as best as I can recall - I asked Joe if he knew a person who would be a good companion for Maria, as it was obvious that Maria was lonely. Joe thought of Skip as a possible candidate and so we set up a double date. In this way Maria first met Skip, at a restaurant we all went to named Friday's, at the border of the cities of Manalapan and Marlboro. Maria and Skip got along well; they liked each other immediately; and Joe and I were

happy, because it was our way of repaying the debt we felt we owed to Maria, for securing our own happiness.

8. The relationship between Maria and Skip endured and deepened. As could be expected, they met each other frequently on their own, but sometimes we double-dated. Occasionally Joe and I visited Maria at her apartment in Manalapan. Maria and I spoke nearly every day on the telephone, a practice that continues even to this day, so that I was very familiar with her thoughts and feelings about Skip. I knew that the relationship was intense and was making her happy, and so I was pleased when she told me that she and Skip were planning to marry. I was present, on August 26, 1997, at Maria's civil marriage ceremony and, later that day, participated at her joyous wedding celebration, which took place at an Italian restaurant in Marlboro. Unfortunately, Joe had to miss the wedding and its celebration, on account of an unavoidable commitment he had previously made to certain real-estate clients of his (Joe was running his own one-man real-estate business at the time and we could not afford to lose these clients).

9. As time passed, Maria began to reveal to me that she had been having some serious doubts and misgivings about Skip. For example, even though they both worked, Skip always seemed to lack money, so that, in order to survive, they depended entirely on her earnings. It was impossible to save any real money because Skip would always spend all of his income: Maria suspected the bulk of his money was spent on certain indulgences, not all of which were legal, that he and his friends enjoyed, but she never knew for sure. Skip would typically insist that Maria pay all of their household bills and even pay for restaurant meals. When Maria would question him about this unfair inequality, he would insist that he was sending his paychecks to the bank in order to pay off his student loans and that, as his wife, it was her obligation to assist him to repay these loans. Growing suspicious, Maria managed one day to

obtain a copy of Skip's credit report, which showed that he did indeed owe a considerable sum for student loans, but that he had paid back almost none of it: she realized then that he had been lying to her all along. However, when she confronted him with these facts, Skip became defensive and distant, and even hostile. In April of 1999, Maria told me that Skip had disappeared from their home, without leaving word of where he was going. She managed to contact Skip, but only indirectly, by speaking with Skip's uncle; this uncle was polite to Maria, but initially very reluctant to speak frankly with her, because, she later realized, he knew what was going on in Skip's life and wanted to protect Maria from the bitter truth; however, upon her pleading with him, he relented and said he would arrange for Skip to call Maria, which is what finally happened. In this way she learned that Skip never wanted to see her again; insisted upon a divorce; and was living in Philadelphia with a girl named Sharon who had been his girlfriend for quite some time. Skip wound up suing Maria for divorce, which she did not contest, since she saw that she had misjudged him and that a reconciliation, even if it were possible, would only cause her further insecurity and grief.

10. My husband and I were most unhappy at this turn of events, for which we felt at least partially responsible, inasmuch as we were the ones who introduced Maria and Skip to each other. An additional reason for our disappointment was that Maria had been instrumental in our meeting and falling in love, and the debt we owed her, for our happiness, still remained unpaid. Fortunately, this story has a happy ending. After Maria's divorce from Skip, Joe and I were talking about this miserable turn of events when Joe said he knew someone who might be much better suited for Maria than Skip ever was. After all, Joe had known Skip only as an acquaintance, and not as a close friend, before introducing Skip to Maria; by contrast, Joe had been good friends for several years with a man named Franciszek ("Frank") Joe and Frank had been introduced

by Joe's father, who is also named Joseph; Joseph Sr., who is of Polish descent, worked at the time in a recreational facility in Harrison, N.J. called the, and had there met Frank, who is also of Polish descent and who was living at the time in Harrison. Joe knew Frank to be a decent, hardworking, reliable person; furthermore, Joe knew that Frank had one other quality that was an important prerequisite for a romantic date with Maria: Frank was available, that is, he was not seriously involved with anyone. We introduced Maria to Frank and the rest is history. They were married last month, on October 26, 2000 to be exact, they live in Frank's spacious and comfortable house in Roselle, N.J., and we have remained close friends.

Oxana

Sworn to before me this
day of November, 2000

Notary Public