

State of New York
County of Staten Island

Affidavit

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

1. I was born on July 11, ..., in the city of Moscow, Russia.

2. I came to the United States on September 12, ..., with my parents. I became a United States citizen on April 27, ... My Certificate of Naturalization No. is, Attached to this affidavit as Exhibit A and made a part hereof is a copy of my Certificate of Naturalization.

3. I currently reside in the United States at Place, Staten Island, N.Y. 10314. My telephone number is 718/...-....

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

5. Tatyana was my childhood friend. Our parents were close and Tatyana and I always kept in touch, even during the period of 7 years when I had left for the United States and she was still living in Russia.

6. On May .., 2000, my daughter was born. At my invitation, Tatyana arrived in the United States as a tourist in June of 2000. She telephoned me as soon as she arrived and immediately came to live with my family and me at my home, as our welcome guest. I was thrilled that Tatyana could be with us at this joyous time.

7. To celebrate the birth of our daughter, my husband, Stanley, and I organized a big celebration at, a restaurant in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn. At this celebration, which took place on June .., 2000, Tatyana met Barry, who was working as a car rental agent for a company - I have forgotten its name -

that rented vans to transport equipment used by Management Inc. is a dental diagnostic and pain management corporation managed by my husband and myself.

8. Due to her sweet personality and pretty looks, Tatyana was popular at this party, making many new friends and acquaintances. Everyone paid attention to her, telling her about life in America. Some of our guests had long ago come to the United States from the former Soviet Union and were fluent in both Russian and English; they spoke to Tatyana in both languages, trying in this way to teach her English, the new language she would need to learn. Barry, a native of the United States, spoke only English, but he noticed Tatyana right away and spent most of the evening by her side. Although they did not know each other's native languages, they managed to communicate anyway, sometimes with the help of their friends, at other times through simple gestures.

9. Barry and Tatyana started dating, seeing each other almost every day. Because Tatyana and I were so close, Barry appeared to see my family as an extension of Tatyana: he paid a lot of attention to Stanley and myself and to our children. In response, I always welcomed Barry and Tatyana to our home, helped them communicate, and was genuinely happy that they had formed such a good friendship.

10. One thing did bother me, however, even from the beginning of their relationship. Despite the fact that Barry spent a lot of time with Tatyana, he was not eager to introduce her to his family. He cited their language and cultural differences as the reasons for his reluctance. Consistent with that explanation, he insisted that Tatyana attend English classes at the College of Staten Island. He did try to help her learn English.

11. On November .., 2000, Tatyana and Barry got married. All the members of my family attended the wedding.

Barry insisted that my son,....., be his ring boy, which I found very sweet.

12. In the beginning, at least, Tatyana and Barry were a happy couple and got along well. I know this directly because, during the first few months of their marriage, they were looking for their own apartment, and in the meantime they lived with us, in our home. In March of 2001 they found a suitable apartment in Brooklyn, at.. Bay Parkway, Apt. .., and moved into it, to begin a more independent life. This move had to happen, but it was a bittersweet experience for me, because I always liked having Tatyana near me and missed her terribly when she moved out.

13. For a couple of months Tatyana and I were not in touch. She did not call me, which I attributed to her just being busy with her new life. But when we began speaking on the telephone, I started to suspect that something was wrong. She would sniffle on the telephone, as if she were or had been crying, but when I would ask her about this, she would just say that she was not feeling well and would cut our conversation short.

14. In May of 2001, when I first saw Tatyana again after a long absence, I could hardly recognize her. She was so thin that her clothes did not fit her. After a while, she confessed, with shame and embarrassment, that things were not good between Barry and her. He would disappear for days at a time and would not tell her his whereabouts, neither before he left nor upon his return. There was no communication between them. She felt abandoned, even desolate, and sick with depression. She felt separated from the long-time friends and close family members she had left behind in Russia: these people had been for her a kind of support group, for which the present network of casual friends, and a disappearing husband, was no substitute. Indeed, Barry did his best to undermine many of these new friendships, making sure they would not deepen: he was always disapproving when Tatyana socialized

with Russian friends, telling her that in this way she would never learn English and would remain stupid for her whole life.

15. In the beginning of June, 2001, Tatyana called me on the telephone and broke into tears. It turned out that Barry had been missing for a few weeks, and not just the usual (and bad enough) period of a few days. No one knew what had happened to him and Tatyana was upset and frightened. I tried to comfort her but it was no use.

16. Barry first returned to Tatyana in August of 2001, having been gone for more than two months. I visited them at their apartment. Barry was reluctant to explain his absence, but from bits and pieces of his conversation, and from information Tatyana and I gathered from his acquaintances, we figured out that he had been arrested, had spent the majority of the missing two months in jail (I think he said 38 days), and was too embarrassed to return to Tatyana immediately upon his release. To this day we don't know how or why Barry got arrested, because he never spoke about it forthrightly.

17. From his behavior upon his return, and from subsequent events, it became clear that Barry's return was not due to love for Tatyana and to missing her company. It appears that the primary reason he returned was to ask her for money, for reasons he did not provide: perhaps it was to help him pay his legal bills. In any event, when Tatyana refused, Barry managed to borrow \$500.00 from my husband, money he has never repaid. After borrowing this money, Barry disappeared again, this time for almost a half year.

18. In the face of such evidence that Barry did not love her and was quite capable of using her, Tatyana's depression kept getting worse and worse. She lost her appetite and could not sleep. Her experience of marriage was so far removed from the life she had envisioned for herself and Barry that she was just devastated. I made it a point to be with her more often and to spend a lot of time

with her, so that I could try to comfort her and cheer her up. In resuming our close friendship I learned from Tatyana just how lonely, isolated, and fearful her life with Barry had become.

19. On December .., 2001, the day which was Tatyana's 30th birthday, Barry showed up at Tatyana's birthday party, which she was having in her new apartment, atStreet in Brooklyn, N.Y. I was present at the party so I know what happened. Barry wished Tatyana a happy birthday and told her how much he loved her and missed her. He told her that he had a new job and promised her that, through this new job, he would get her medical insurance coverage so that she could go to the doctor for a checkup. Tatyana so much wanted to believe Barry, despite the past evidence of his total unreliability, that she did not argue with him and just allowed him to stay with her in her new apartment.

20. Within a matter of weeks it became obvious, however, that Barry had not changed at all, and was up to his old tricks. He took Tatyana to see an accountant in the borough of Queens. He wanted Tatyana to sign a joint tax return, so that he could get a better tax refund for the 2001 calendar year. Once she signed, Barry disappeared again, this time for good: no one has heard from him or seen him since then. Tatyana was heartbroken once again. I believe that, since then, our friendship, her undergoing of psychotherapy, and other positive experiences have helped her to begin to recover, but I also know that she continues to suffer from the aftereffects of such a terribly disappointing, cruel marriage.

Ilana

Sworn to before me this
day of June, 2003

Notary Public