

## **EX-ST. RAY'S STAR GRANT FACING EXILE**

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### **Body**

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Former St. Raymond's All-**Star** and North Carolina State sophomore Gavin **Grant** is fighting to stay in the country. A Jamaican national, **Grant** came to the United States to be with his mother as a child, but according to published reports in North Carolina, **Grant** is in the U.S. illegally.

"I can't comment," said **Grant**'s St. Raymond's coach Oliver Antigua.

**Grant** has been meeting with immigration officials for two years, since he turned 18, receiving updates on his situation in the U.S. and trying to attain U.S. citizenship. Sources close to **Grant** and his family said that he had a routine meeting with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials early last week. He was neither arrested nor informed of an impending deportation hearing, but was told he would **face** a deportation case eventually.

"It was not something that was new," said one source. "It was part of a process for him to try and deal with the situation. He was never hiding from immigration officials. He's trying to work with them in a situation he found himself. He did not come here trying to break the rules. He was a little kid.

"He's a little upset right now. He doesn't understand what happened differently that caused all this attention."

**Grant**, 20, apparently followed his mother from Jamaica to New York sometime before 1994. Friends of the family said that **Grant**'s mother never filed proper paperwork for him to stay in the United States. According to published reports, **Grant** could avoid a deportation hearing by leaving the country voluntarily and applying to re-enter.

A former Daily News all-city player, **Grant** was a key reserve on the Wolfpack's Sweet 16 team last year. He averaged 4.2 points and 2.4 rebounds as a freshman last season. He is expected to be a key component for N.C. State's team this year. **Grant** was in classes yesterday.

"He has been working through this. He felt that he would be able to work it out," said a friend of the family. "He is just trying to work through this and keep focused on his work and basketball."

North Carolina State officials refused to comment on the matter and messages left for **Grant** were not returned.

### **Graphic**

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Gavin Grant

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