

DESPERATE FOR ADVICE ON HIS NONCITIZEN WIFE

Daily News (New York)

April 21, 2005 Thursday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2005 Daily News, L.P.



Section: NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 278 words

Byline: BY LESLIE CASIMIR DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Body

LIKE MANY callers yesterday to Citizenship Now, the immigration helpline sponsored by the City University of New York and the Daily News, William B. was **desperate**.

Two years ago, the American citizen married the love of his life: a Mexican woman who is undocumented.

He thought that as an American, he would be able to sponsor his **wife** for a green card. But a law that once allowed U.S. citizens to adjust their spouse's status through marriage was done away with in 2001.

Now the mother of William's newborn baby has two options - return to Mexico and face a 10-year ban from the U.S. or stay on illegally - said Allan Wernick, a News columnist who directs CUNY's Citizenship and Immigration Project.

William's call to the free helpline - staffed by immigration lawyers, paralegals and counselors - illustrates another daunting problem that many U.S. citizens and their immigrant spouses face.

When Congress did away with a law granting residency to a limited number of undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. (provided they paid a \$1,000 penalty fee), it left a huge gap for many families seeking legal status, said Olivia Cassin, a lawyer at the Legal Aid Society.

The only hope for William's **wife** is to return to Mexico and request a special waiver on the 10-year bar, Cassin said. But the process is risky and could drag on, she said.

William had scheduled a consultation with a private lawyer for \$150 to figure out his options. Now, he said, he's not certain if he needs the consultation.

"I don't know if my problem will be solved, but this [Citizenship Now] is really a great service," said William, who did not wish his full name to be used. lcasimir@nydailynews.com

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

DESPERATE FOR ADVICE ON HIS NONCITIZEN WIFE

Subject: IMMIGRATION (92%); CITIZENSHIP (90%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); IMMIGRATION LAW (78%); MARRIAGE (77%); FAMILY (77%); LEGAL AID (76%); LAWYERS (76%); PARALEGALS (71%); INFANTS & TODDLERS (55%)

Organization: LEGAL AID SOCIETY (NEW YORK) (55%)

Industry: LEGAL AID (76%); LAWYERS (76%); PARALEGALS (71%)

Geographic: NEW YORK, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (95%)

Load-Date: April 21, 2005

End of Document