

Senate Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C.

Senator Grassley, and other members of the Committee: good morning and thank you for giving me the chance to tell my story. My name is Jamal Hussain, and I am both a physician, and a naturalized American citizen. I am currently a cardiologist who practices in Lakewood California.

Nearly twenty years ago, I came to the United States as a young medical doctor after I passed the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination in Medical Sciences. I applied for residencies at different American hospitals while I was in Pakistan. After I received interview letters, I applied for a tourist visa so that I could come interview at hospitals. I subsequently converted to a J-1 training visa after I was offered a residency position in Internal Medicine and later on in cardiology. The J-1 visa required me, at the end of my training, to return to my home country for two years unless I received a waiver of that requirement, which I did.

Next I worked for three years in medically underserved areas, helping indigent and vulnerable people who otherwise would have difficulty in getting decent medical care. I also worked at VA Hospital in order to serve American veterans.

My immigration to the United States was part of a complex, but worthwhile process. Because I was seeking permanent residency, I had to show why my immigration would be useful for the United States. I applied for a national interest waiver based upon the prospective benefit of my medical research. I had co-authored cardiology textbooks and submitted it to USCIS proving I was a researcher of exceptional ability, and that my immigration would be in the national interest. In fact, I was able to achieve an EB-1 visa for my qualifications as an "outstanding researcher" in the area of cardiology. I worked very hard to accomplish this. In the end, it took me 12 long years to obtain a green card and 17 years to be a citizen of this great country. Since then, I have saved many lives, provided medical services to those who cannot afford to pay, all while remembering the rural village I came from. I am very grateful for all this.

Once a citizen, I was able to sponsor family members, such as my elderly mother, someone who raised me almost single handedly. I could also seek a fiancé visa.

I come from a culture where marriages are arranged, and it is crucial that my family be on board with my marriage. I realize that this is not the custom for most people in this country. But it is important for me and my family. My family was introduced to my ex-fiancé's family

in Pakistan towards the end of 2013. After numerous visits between the families, they felt this might be a good match. In the Spring of 2014, I visited Pakistan. I visited twice with her family along with my family, and met my ex-fiancé at her house. In May 2014, we were engaged. We would talk on the phone, text, and skype.

My fiancé insisted that she wanted to come to the United States as soon as possible. I filed an I-129F fiancé petition for her (K-1 visa). In January 2015, USCIS approved the petition. In that petition, my fiancé represented to USCIS under oath that she was coming to the US to marry me, and that she had never been married previously. On March 30, 2015, my fiancé was interviewed at the US Embassy in Islamabad and made these representations to the U.S. Embassy. The Embassy issued the K-1 fiancé visa on April 2, 2015 and she came to the U.S. right after.

During her stay with me she appeared cheerful, excited at her new surroundings. We had lots of fun exploring together, and she even travelled with me to Las Vegas and Santa Barbara, California because I was looking to relocate jobs. We were happy, and I was looking forward to getting married and starting a family. Then things started to change, and she started threatening to leave back to Pakistan, especially after she spoke to her family back home on the phone. By June 2015, she still had not wanted to plan a wedding, saying things like "what is the rush." We had arguments, but they never changed my mind of whether I wanted to marry. After one particular argument, she indicated she wanted to go back to Pakistan, so I bought her a ticket. However, the next morning she said she didn't mean it, and wanted to stay. I began wondering what was going on.

Our relationship never resulted in any legal marriage in the United States. At times, my fiancé indicated that that she did not need me any more to get her green card and boasted that she can get it quicker in other ways. I thought she was joking.

Then, on August 7, 2015 while I was at work, she left my apartment and never came back. I frantically searched for her in all the usual spots we would visit, but I could not find her. Finally, I went to the Police station to report her missing. The police officer on duty told me that she is safe and that I should go home and she will contact me if she wishes so. I was confused and scared, so I called our families back in Pakistan. Her family was not telling me as to what was going on. I felt they knew something that I did not.

A couple of weeks later she called me twice while I was at work, told me where she was, and told me to meet her at the shelter she was staying at. She indicated that she wanted to reconcile and the shelter staff fully supported it. However she wanted me to respond by next day. The next morning I was called by the shelter staff that she had changed her mind after she spoke to her family in Pakistan. I was dumfounded.

Three months after she left my apartment, I still had very little answers and nothing made sense. She then filed for restraining order on September 30, 2015. After a two day evidentiary hearing, where the judge was patient and took extensive testimony, Judge Anna Luna dismissed the case.

The findings were as follows:

“The court found the respondents testimony more credible; findings that there were no acts of domestic violence perpetrated by the respondent upon the petitioner. The request for restraining order under the domestic violence prevention act is denied. Temporary orders are dissolved. ”

The Judge dismissed the case and declared her non-credible. The Judge also stated, “I'm hoping that she wasn't fabricating this to be able to create a basis to stay in the country.” I was sad, felt hurt and also had many questions about my fiancé's course of actions.

About one week after the Court dismissed her case, she called regretting about what she did and wanted to reconcile. She indicated that the shelter had compelled her to file for restraining order if she wanted to get assistance with her immigration. I was taken by complete surprise, however hesitantly I agreed and she said she will come to my office on Monday and will then come home with me. However she never did it.

My family attempted to intervene to resolve any misunderstandings with her family in Pakistan however her family refused to reciprocate any good faith attempt. Instead her father stated “Nobody can expel my daughter from America and she does not need Jamal anymore to live there”.

During this time my family in Pakistan has been harassed and threatened by her father and brothers. One of her brother threatened to kidnap my niece. I am worried for their safety.

I have notified various USCIS Service centers in writing and sent them all the relevant information from the court proceedings. I never heard back from them. I also notified ICE over the phone. She has lied to USCIS under penalty of perjury in Form G 325A that she was never married. She concealed the truth, which we discovered only recently that she was married/ then divorced prior to her engagement to me, and she put me through much more than I could have dreamed.

I now understand more completely that me and my ex-fiancé had two different reasons for getting engaged. I wanted to get married and start a family, and she wanted to come to the United States and stay here. She just needed an easy way.

Thank you.

Jamal Hussain