



Immigration and Naturalisation
Service
Ministry of Justice and Security

Family reunification in the Netherlands

Practical experiences on the
provision of evidence to
establish family relationships



Procedure

- › Copies of ID documents
- › Original documents to prove the family relationship



What if documents are missing?

- › A letter will be send to the sponsor to ask for missing documents
- › Explanations on why certain documents cannot be provided



Bureau Documents

- › They examine original documents
 - Technical research
 - Empirical research
 - Tactical research
- › Positive vs. negative conclusion on the documents



Integral assessment

- › January 2022:
ECLI:NL:RVS:2022:245
- › The integral assessment:
 - Documents
 - Explanations
 - Age & gender
 - Circumstances of the sponsor & family members
 - Circumstances in country of origin
 - Contra-indications



The value of documents

- > The (type of) authority that issued the document
- > Judgement of Bureau Documents of the IND, which examines the authenticity of the documents
- > Administrative practice in the country of origin
- > Content of the documents

- > Example: Syrian documents



The benefit of the doubt

- › Three options:
 - Benefit of the doubt → ID and the family relationship are plausible
 - Benefit of the doubt → further investigations
 - No benefit of the doubt



Further investigations

- › DNA tests
- › Interview with the sponsor
- › Interview with the family members



Difficulties

- › Differences in the administrative practice
- › Documents issued after the sponsor has entered NL
- › Relationships that are difficult to prove with documents
- › Somalian documents



Case study

- › Bureau Documents assessed the documents and concluded that they were authentic. However, the content was false.



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Questions?