

Mother rues failure to educate son for want of visa deposit

Umm Ali cannot take advantage of rule change

- By Bassma Al Jandaly, Senior Reporter
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Ajman: A change in residency rule has given a mother new hope of sponsoring her 7-year-old son, but she is not smiling.

The new rule of residency and naturalisation department allows expatriate workers from 57 previously barred categories to sponsor their family members by depositing Dh5,000 for each member.

But Umm Ali, whose son was barred from going to school because he does not have residence visa, says she cannot afford the Dh5,000 deposit to the residency department in Ajman.

The expatriate mother, who works as a driving instructor in Ajman, was allegedly barred from sponsoring her son till she pays Dh5,000 deposit.

The mother, who recently joined a driving school, said she cannot afford to pay the required deposit at the moment.

Major General Nasser Al Awadi Al Menhali, assistant undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior for Naturalisation, Residency and Ports Affairs, told *Gulf News* on Monday that the profession of the mother as driving instructor is under the professions who cannot sponsor their family members.

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"She should deposit Dh5,000 to sponsor her son," he said.

"I just joined my work six months ago and I am working hard to support my little son but I cannot afford the deposit now," the mother said.

"My 7-year-old son Ali Mohammad Awad who was born here is not going to school because he does not have residence visa," the mother told *Gulf News*.

"My heart breaks when my son asks me every day why he is not allowed to go to school. I tell him that his passport is not ready yet," the mother said.

The mother who hails from Yemen said that she used to live with her husband here but the company in which her husband used to work shut down and they became illegal residents. Her husband cannot get another job.

"My husband was deported to Yemen and I managed to get a job here. We are poor family and I have this job in which I can support myself and my son," the mother said.

She says that she cannot live without her little son.

"After 15 years of marriage Allah gave me my son Ali. He is all what I have in life," Umm Ali said.

The little boy Ali told *Gulf News* that he wants to go to school like other children in his building.

No one was available from Ajman Residency Department to comment on the case.

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