

Judge scraps deportation order against lawmaker's wife

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An immigration judge on Tuesday scrapped a deportation order filed against the wife of state Sen. Curt Thompson, allowing her to remain in the country.

Federal officials went into court Tuesday morning and supported Sascha Herrera Thompson's bid to block her deportation.

"Based on the unique facts of this case, we agreed not to appeal reopening the case," said Terry Bird, chief counsel for the Atlanta office of Immigration and Custom Enforcement.

Bird said that Judge William A. Cassidy expressed concern that Sascha Thompson's deportation appeared to be the result of bad paperwork filed by a notario. The judge urged that the notario be prosecuted, if possible.

Thompson said in a statement last week his wife had been the victim of the unidentified notario. The term notario refers to attorneys in many Latin American countries. In the U.S. it means notary public. The notario in the Herrera case failed to provide proper address information on some of her applications, Thompson said. As a result she missed notification of a key hearing.

Thompson will be allowed to go home and continue to pursue a visa application the couple filed soon after they married last spring.

Federal immigration officials had come to the home of the couple, who married earlier this year, and informed Thompson his wife had a deportation order against her.