

Interview With Rogelia Rangel, My Grandma (Tita)

Transcript Translated from Spanish to English

Rogelia: Well, I passed with a permit- and apparently some people passed like me, with a permit, and they did get their papers. They did get them, but I left (The U.S.) just like that because of my son. And well, I don't know if I really had an opportunity to get paper. Something about immigration is that they interview you and ask why you leave (your country). And well my case is the same as others; So much aggression here, and well that's how I got my permit.

Me: Were you waiting for them to contact you, or what?

Rogelia: I didn't have the option for papers, I just had a permit for the indefinite amount of time that they would give me. And so they started to define the amount of time I was going to be there, but I got out before that time. So, I wasn't really given the option to get papers. They never said, "Yes, we're going to give you residence" or something.

Me: Was that Hard?

Rogelia: To me, it was really hard because for you to take all your requirements and provide evidence of what is happening here (The reasons she went to the U.S.), the things that happen to us, and the aggression they show to us. It was really hard, and tiring, that every month I had to do the process of going to immigration appointments by myself, for them to know if I was still in the country. They investigate- you, looking at you, seeing if you are (Still in the U.S.) and you have to keep waiting for them to tell you your time is up, your permit is up. They would give three months after time was up, for you to get out of the country. And done! You get out, but I never got to that point.

Me: How did you see my mom and my aunts (her daughters), how they were affected.

Rogelia: With my situation?

Me: Yeah

Rogelia: I saw them tired, I saw them worried for me, that it was such little time I was going to be (in the U.S.) and seeing me struggle going to the immigration appointments. And well I had to go, I had to pick up Monse (my aunt) from school because we had to go there. I was also tired of living that way.

Me: And how did you feel being in the U.S (in general)

Rogelia: Well I'll be honest, I never really wanted to go to the United States. Nothing motivated me to go just because, or to explore. I never had the necessity. But I was there because of my daughters. I was really comfortable because of that. -Stressed about the appointments with immigration, yes that was hard. But apart from that, I was very comfortable,- I went to California, Oregon, once I got here, I went Oregon when Omar (My Uncle) got married. I was grateful for that permit, and I was very comfortable. I went to California on a bus and I went through immigration there, showing them all my documents. And I went to all the appointments. And now I want, if God allows it, to get a license and get a Visa to visit yall for a while. All I need is to renew my passport.