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Nanny fights to remain in Canada

ALLEN PANZERI
Journal Staff Writer

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An Edmonton nanny has been granted a 30-day extension on her permit to remain in Canada.

Celia Felipe, 44, had initially been asked to leave the country voluntarily by Wednesday after being classified as medically inadmissible.

But last week, Felipe's lawyer, Shirish Chotalia, filed an application in Federal Court for a judicial review of her case and Felipe decided not to honor the voluntary request until her appeal is heard.

Chotalia has 30 days from the Sept. 17 filing of the review request to file Felipe's affidavit, the arguments, and decisions to be reviewed. Once that is done, she is hoping for an expedited hearing.

Karen Granoski, manager of Edmonton's Canada Immigration Centre, said Thursday the department has decided to extend Felipe's permit until Oct. 31.

During that time, the department will consider new medical evidence.

Felipe came from the Philippines three years ago to work as a live-in nanny for a Wetaskiwin nurse. Four months later she was diagnosed as having breast cancer, for which she received chemotherapy and radiation treatments at the Cross Cancer Clinic.

There was no sign of the breast cancer when she was examined six months ago and then a week ago, but doctors working for the federal Public Security Department said the cancer could recur and therefore classified her medically inadmissible.

If Felipe is found to be admissible during the next 30 days, the department will begin processing her landed immigrant status. If not, she'll again be faced with an order to leave.

Normally, the department requires a person be free of cancer for five years to be medically admissible.