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<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/12/us/illegal-immigration-deportation-daca-jessica-colotl.html>

**A Woman Long at Risk of Deportation Gains a Reprieve**

A Mexican woman whose highly publicized deportation case in Georgia thrust her into the national debate over immigration may stay in the United States and be temporarily protected from deportation, a federal judge ruled on Monday.

The woman, Jessica Colotl, 29, whose parents brought her to the United States when she was 11, staved off deportation for years under a federal program to protect some undocumented youths. But her protected status, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, was revoked under President Trump last month, as his administration stepped up immigration enforcement.

The judge, Mark H. Cohen of the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, ordered her DACA protection to be reinstated and her application for renewing that status to be reconsidered.

“Jessica is very excited to see justice prevail in this case,” Charles Kuck, whose law firm represents her, said in a statement.

The possibility of deportation has loomed over Ms. Colotl since she was caught driving without a license, a misdemeanor, in 2010. But the authorities then added another charge, a felony for lying about her address during the traffic stop by a campus officer at Kennesaw State University, a suburban Atlanta college where she was then a junior.

Ms. Colotl admitted guilt under an agreement in which the case was dismissed after she completed a pretrial diversion program and community service. President Barack Obama’s administration, which started the program to protect undocumented youths, also known as “dreamers,” renewed her DACA status in 2013 and 2015.

Believing that her legal issues were behind her, Ms. Colotl graduated from college and began working as a legal assistant at Mr. Kuck’s firm. Under Mr. Obama, immigration officials targeted people for deportation who had been convicted of violent offenses. But under Mr. Trump, the definition of who may be deported has been expanded, raising fears among immigrants.

In May, when Ms. Colotl’s latest application came up for renewal, the Department of Homeland Security denied it. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said she was turned down because she had admitted to the felony. The agency said her admission was equivalent to a felony conviction for immigration purposes, even though it was not on her record.

But in a court hearing on Thursday, government lawyers reversed course and said that Ms. Colotl’s admission and her completion of the diversion program did not make her a felon. The lawyers could not provide a reason for the denial and speculated that it might have stemmed from her misdemeanor traffic conviction, Judge Cohen wrote in his opinion.

Steve Blando, a spokesman for United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, said the agency was reviewing the judge’s order.