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U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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invasion of personal privacy**

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



File: [Redacted] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: **NOV - 8 2002**

IN RE: Petitioner: [Redacted]
Beneficiary: [Redacted]

Petition: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Skilled Worker Pursuant to Section 203(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(3)(A)(i)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:



PUBLIC COPY

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office that originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS


Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The preference visa petition was initially approved by the Director, Vermont Service Center. Subsequently, the beneficiary applied for adjustment of status. On the basis of new information received and on further review of the record, the director determined that the petitioner was not eligible for the benefit sought. Accordingly, the director properly served the petitioner with a notice of his intention to revoke the approval of the preference visa petition, and his reasons therefore. The matter is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be sustained.

The petitioner is a therapy & rehabilitation service company. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a physical therapist. Accordingly, the petitioner has requested classification of the beneficiary as a skilled worker pursuant to section 203(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(3)(A)(i). The director approved the immigrant petition on December 5, 2000.

The director noted in the revocation that:

Your response of December 19, 2001, attempts to address many of the questions raised by this Service. However, although you claim to employ 33 people, you list only 20 on the instant petition and a review of your fiscal year 2000 Form W-2's appear to indicate that almost all of them work part-time. This is bolstered by the fact that you paid out only \$117,300 in salaries in fiscal year 2000, which averages out to \$3,554 per employee. Therefore, it does not appear that the beneficiary will actually be employed in a bona fide specialty occupation as you contend. Further, a review of the photographs submitted to verify the physical existence of your entity reveals that your business appears to be located in a residential home. You claim that many of your employees are contract workers assisting various health and medical facilities, but you make no such distinction for the beneficiary in the instant petition.

Section 203(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(3)(A)(i), provides for the granting of preference classification to qualified immigrants who are capable, at the time of petitioning for classification under this paragraph, of performing skilled labor (requiring at least two years training or experience), not of a temporary or seasonal nature, for which qualified workers are not available in the United States.

8 C.F.R. 204.5(g)(2) states in pertinent part:

Ability of prospective employer to pay wage. Any petition filed by or for an employment-based immigrant which requires an offer of employment must be accompanied by evidence that the prospective United States employer

has the ability to pay the proffered wage. The petitioner must demonstrate this ability at the time the priority date is established and continuing until the beneficiary obtains lawful permanent residence. Evidence of this ability shall be either in the form of copies of annual reports, federal tax returns, or audited financial statements.

Eligibility in this matter hinges on the petitioner's ability to pay the wage offered as of the petition's priority date, which is the date the request for labor certification was accepted for processing by any office within the employment system of the Department of Labor. Matter of Wing's Tea House, 16 I&N Dec. 158 (Act. Reg. Comm. 1977). Here, the petition's priority date is July 14, 2000. The beneficiary's salary as stated on the labor certification is \$35,000.00 per annum.

The record contains copies of Form 1099-MISC which shows the beneficiary was paid \$54,385.00 in 2000 and \$41,856.00 in 2001. Therefore, the petitioner has established its ability to pay the proffered wage.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has met that burden.

ORDER: The director's decision to revoke the approval of the visa petition is withdrawn. The appeal is sustained.