

identifying data deleted to
prevent identity unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

01

[Redacted]

FILE:

[Redacted]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

NOV 10 2009

EAC 03 019 51028

IN RE:

Petitioner:

Beneficiary:

[Redacted]

PETITION: Immigrant Petition for Special Immigrant Religious Worker Pursuant to Section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(4), as described at Section 101(a)(27)(C) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(C)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

[Redacted]

RECEIVED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office 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.

Maui Johnson

2 Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, Vermont Service Center, denied the nonimmigrant visa petition. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed.

The petitioner is a mosque. It seeks to classify the beneficiary as a special immigrant religious worker pursuant to section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(4), to perform services as an imam.

In order to properly file an appeal, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i) provides that the affected party must file the complete appeal within 30 days of service of the unfavorable decision. If the decision was mailed, the appeal must be filed within 33 days. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b). In accordance with 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i), an application received in a CIS office shall be stamped to show the time and date of actual receipt, if it is properly signed, executed, and accompanied by the correct fee. For calculating the date of filing, the appeal shall be regarded as properly filed on the date that it is so stamped by the service center or district office.

The record indicates that the director issued the decision on December 2, 2004. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. The record indicates that the petitioner sent the appeal to USCIS by DHL courier service on January 4, 2005, the day that the appeal was due. According to CIS records and the DHL tracking records provided by the petitioner, the appeal was received by CIS on January 5, 2005, or 34 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO authority to extend the 33-day time limit for filing an appeal. *See Matter of Liadov*, 23 I&N Dec. 990 (BIA 2006). Even if the appeal was delayed by the overnight delivery service, the error would not warrant special consideration of the appeal. *Id.*

As the appeal was untimely filed, the appeal must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.