



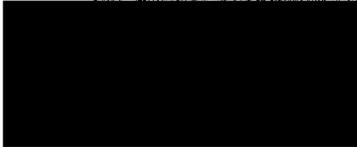
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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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



File: EAC-01-066-52614 Office: Vermont Service Center

Date: 18 DEC 2002

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

Petition: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

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 nonimmigrant visa petition was approved by the Director, Vermont Service Center. Upon further review, the director determined that the beneficiary was not clearly eligible for the benefit sought. Accordingly, the director properly served the petitioner with notice of his intent to revoke approval of the visa petition and the reasons therefore, and ultimately revoked the approval of the petition. The case is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be sustained and the petition will be approved.

The petitioner is a healthcare provider with 20 employees and a stated gross annual income of \$1 million. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a physical therapist for a period of two years. The director determined the petitioner had not provided an itinerary indicating exactly where the beneficiary is to be employed, or demonstrated that it has the financial resources to pay the proffered salary.

On appeal, the petitioner submits a statement and additional documentation.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(C), to qualify to perform services in a specialty occupation, the alien must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Hold a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
2. Hold a foreign degree determined to be equivalent to a United States baccalaureate or higher degree required by the specialty occupation from an accredited college or university;
3. Hold an unrestricted State license, registration, or certification which authorizes him or her to fully practice the specialty occupation and be immediately engaged in that specialty in the state of intended employment; or
4. Have education, specialized training, and/or progressively responsible experience that is equivalent to completion of a United States baccalaureate or higher degree in the specialty occupation and have recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions directly related to the specialty.

The beneficiary holds a bachelor of science degree in physical therapy conferred by the Perpetual Help College of Rizal in the Philippines. The record shows that the beneficiary's foreign education has been approved for purposes of obtaining a license to practice physical therapy in New York state by the Bureau of Comparative Education of the State Education Department of the University of the State of New York. The record further shows that the beneficiary is both registered and licensed to practice physical therapy in New York state by the Education Department of the University of the State of New York. Accordingly, it is concluded that the petitioner has shown that the beneficiary qualifies to perform the duties of the proffered position.

The term "specialty occupation" is defined at 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(ii) as:

an occupation which requires theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge in fields of human endeavor including, but not limited to, architecture, engineering, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and health, education, business specialties, accounting, law, theology, and the arts, and which requires the attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher in a specific specialty, or its equivalent, as a minimum for entry into the occupation in the United States.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 214.2(h)(4)(iii)(A), to qualify as a specialty occupation, the position must meet one of the following criteria:

1. A baccalaureate or higher degree or its equivalent is normally the minimum requirement for entry into the particular position;
2. The degree requirement is common to the industry in parallel positions among similar organizations or, in the alternative, an employer may show that its particular position is so complex or unique that it can be performed only by an individual with a degree;
3. The employer normally requires a degree or its equivalent for the position; or
4. The nature of the specific duties is so specialized and complex that knowledge required to perform the duties is usually associated with the attainment of a baccalaureate or higher degree.

The duties of the proffered position are described in pertinent part as follows:

Administer medically-prescribed physical therapy treatments to patients to restore functions, relieve pain and prevent disability following disease, injury or loss of body parts.

The proffered position is that of a physical therapist. The Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook, (Handbook), 2002-2003 edition, at pages 259-260 finds that the usual requirement for employment as a physical therapist is a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited physical therapist educational program. Additionally, the Handbook notes that subsequent to graduation from such a program, all states require physical therapists to pass a licensure examination before they can practice. In view of the foregoing, it is concluded that the petitioner has demonstrated that the proffered position is a specialty occupation within the meaning of the regulations.

The director has determined that the petitioner has not complied with regulations at 8 C.F.R. 214.2.(h)(2)(i)(B) regarding an itinerary of definite employment. The policy of the Service is to interpret this regulation broadly. The petitioner is a substantial firm with a significant number of clients. The record contains numerous contracts obligating the petitioner to provide the services of physical therapists to these clients. The record also contains employment contracts reflecting that the petitioner employs a number of physical therapists, including the beneficiary, to provide physical therapy services to its clients' patients. Finally, the record contains overwhelming evidence in the form of numerous tax and bank documents to establish that the petitioner has the financial resources to pay the proffered salary. The director has based his decision on the concept of "speculative employment." There is no support for the exploration of this concept per se in either statute or regulations. Similarly, the director has questioned the petitioner's ability to pay the beneficiary's offered wage. Wage determinations and the enforcement of their payment with respect to the H-1B classification are the responsibility of the Department of Labor. In view of the foregoing, it is concluded that the grounds for denial have been overcome.

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 sustained that burden. Accordingly, the appeal will be sustained and the petition will be approved.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained. The director's order is withdrawn and the petition is approved.