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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
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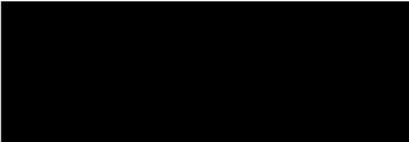
File: EAC-01-049-51271 Office: Vermont Service Center

Date: 14 FEB 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 which 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 which 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 which 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 denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner, Examinations, on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The petitioner is a medical facility with 350 employees and an approximate gross annual income of \$16 million. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a registered nurse for a period of three years. The director denied the petition because the petitioner failed to submit evidence to show that the beneficiary possesses a temporary or permanent nursing license or a statement from the state licensing authority in Connecticut that the beneficiary will be issued a license to practice nursing in that state immediately upon arrival.

On appeal, counsel requested a 90-day extension so that the petitioner may submit evidence to show that the beneficiary holds a nursing license from the State of Connecticut. As of the date of this decision, no additional documentation has been received from counsel or from the petitioner. Therefore, the record must be considered to be complete.

Pursuant to section 214(i)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1184(i)(2), to qualify as an alien coming to perform services in a specialty occupation the beneficiary must hold full state licensure to practice in the occupation, if such licensure is required to practice in the occupation. In addition, the beneficiary must have completed the degree required for the occupation, or have experience in the specialty equivalent to the completion of such degree and recognition of expertise in the specialty through progressively responsible positions relating to the specialty.

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 record shows that the beneficiary holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Ateneo de Zamboanga in the Philippines. The beneficiary was awarded a license as a registered nurse by the Republic of the Philippines on May 2, 1991. He subsequently received a Master of Arts degree in Nursing from Manila Central University in the Philippines on November 8, 1996.

The record does not contain an evaluation of the beneficiary's foreign education by a recognized credentials evaluation service. Nor does the record contain evidence to show that the beneficiary possesses a temporary or permanent nursing license or a statement from the state licensing authority in Connecticut that the beneficiary will be issued a license to practice nursing in that state immediately upon arrival. Therefore, it is concluded that the petitioner has not established that the beneficiary qualifies to perform services in a specialty occupation.

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 not sustained that burden. Accordingly, the decision of the director will not be disturbed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.