



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

DZ



FILE: SRC 02 151 52004 Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date: JUL 30 2004

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)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

SELF-REPRESENTED

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.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

IDENTIFICATION

Identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

DISCUSSION: The service center director denied the nonimmigrant visa petition and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § (a)(2)(v)(B)(1) as untimely filed.

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 after 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).

The record indicates that the director issued a decision on July 11, 2002. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. Although the petitioner dated the appeal March 18, 2003, it was received by Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on March 20, 2003, or 252 days after the decision was issued. The director chose to treat the untimely appeal as a motion to reopen and reconsider. By decision dated May 15, 2003, the director denied the aforementioned motion and affirmed the prior decision. The petitioner then appealed that decision on August 19, 2003, 96 days after the decision was entered.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2) states that, if an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen or a motion to reconsider, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the service center director. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). The director declined to treat the late appeal as a motion and forwarded the matter to the AAO.

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

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.