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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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



**PUBLIC COPY**

AUG 31 2001

File: [Redacted]

Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date:

IN RE: Petitioner:  
Beneficiary:



Petition: Petition for Alien Fiance(e) Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(K)

IN BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

SELF-REPRESENTED

Identifying data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

**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

*Myra L. Rowley*  
for Robert P. Wiemann, Acting, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The Director of the California Service Center denied the nonimmigrant visa petition, and the matter is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be rejected pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1) as untimely filed.

The petitioner is a citizen of the United States who seeks to classify the beneficiary, a native and citizen of the Philippines, as the fiance(e) of a United States citizen pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(K).

The director denied the petition after determining that the petitioner was not legally able to conclude a valid marriage. On appeal, the petitioner states that he wants to marry the beneficiary in the United States, and he also submits documents concerning the petition for divorce that he filed in California, which the record of proceeding already contains.

Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(i), an affected party has 30 days after service of a decision to file an appeal with the office that made the unfavorable decision. The record reflects that on January 10, 2001, the director sent her decision to the petitioner at his address of record; the Service received the appeal 99 days later on March 30, 2001. The appeal was untimely filed.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1) states that the Service must reject an appeal that is not filed within the time allowed. 8 C.F.R. 103.2(a)(2)(v)(B)(2), however, states that, if an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen as described in 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(2) or a motion to reconsider as described in 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(3), the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case.

According to 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(2), a motion to reopen must state the new facts to be provided in the reopened proceedings, supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(3) requires that a motion to reconsider must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions to establish that the decision was based on an incorrect application of law or Service policy. A motion to reconsider a decision must also establish that the decision was incorrect based on the evidence of record at the time of the initial decision.

On appeal, the petitioner submits copies of documents concerning his divorce petition that he previously submitted to the director. There is no new evidence to establish that the petitioner is divorced from his current wife and, therefore, could enter into a valid marriage with the beneficiary. For this reason, the appeal will not be treated as a motion to reopen or reconsider and must,



therefore, be rejected.

As always, the burden of proving eligibility for the benefit sought remains entirely with the petitioner. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The petitioner has not sustained that burden.

**ORDER:** The appeal is rejected as untimely filed.