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U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE: LIN 04 070 50757 Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER Date: AUG 17 2005

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

PETITION: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(P)(iii) of the  
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(P)(iii)

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.

*Mari Johnson*

*S* Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed.

The petitioner in this matter is a community college. The beneficiary is an Italian citizen and German resident, trained as a baritone vocalist and music instructor. The petitioner filed a Form I-129 (Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker) seeking classification of the beneficiary under section 101(a)(15)(P)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(P)(iii), as an entertainer in a culturally unique program. The petitioner seeks to employ the beneficiary as a music instructor for one year.

The director denied the petition, finding that the petitioner failed to provide the required consultation and to establish that the beneficiary's performance is culturally unique and that all of his performances or presentations would be culturally unique events.

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 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 the decision on June 14, 2004. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. Although the appeal notice is dated July 13, 2004, it was received by Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on July 29, 2004, or 45 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed; therefore, it must be rejected.

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.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(1)(iii) states that, for purposes of appeals, certifications, and reopening or reconsideration, *affected party* (in addition to the Citizenship and Immigration Services) means the person or entity with legal standing in a proceeding. It does not include the beneficiary of a visa petition. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v) states that an appeal filed by a person or entity not entitled to file it must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee the Service has accepted will not be refunded. The appeal has not been filed by the petitioner, nor by any entity with legal standing in the proceeding, but rather by the beneficiary. Therefore, the appeal has not been properly filed, and must be rejected.

**ORDER:** The appeal is rejected.