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U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: SRC 07 245 51709 Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date: DEC 17 2008

IN RE: Applicant:



PETITION: Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document under Section 343 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1454.

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Grissom".

John F. Grissom, Acting Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, Texas Service Center, denied the application. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed.

The applicant is a native of Yemen. He seeks to replace his certificate under section 343 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1454, because he claims to have lost his original certificate.

The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish that a certificate had ever been issued to him in the past. The director recommended that the applicant submit a Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, in order to obtain proof of his U.S. citizenship.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(7)(i), which discusses receipt dates, states that an application or petition shall be regarded as properly filed when it is signed and executed and the required filing fee is attached. An application or petition which is not properly signed or is submitted with the wrong filing fee shall be rejected as improperly filed. Rejected applications and petitions will not retain a filing date.

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 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). In accordance with 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i), an application received in a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office shall be stamped to show the time and date of actual receipt, if it is properly signed, executed, and accompanied by the correct fee. For calculating the date of filing, the appeal shall be regarded as properly filed on the date that it is so stamped by the service center or district office.

The record indicates that the director issued the decision on July 18, 2008. On August 27, 2008, the applicant filed an appeal of that decision; however, the director rejected the appeal because the applicant failed to include the correct fee. The applicant resubmitted the appeal with the proper fee on September 30, 2008, or 74 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

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. An untimely-filed appeal must meet specific requirements to be treated as a motion. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(2) requires that a motion to reopen state the new facts to be provided in the reopened proceeding, supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Furthermore, 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 USCIS policy.

Review of the record indicates that the appeal does not meet the requirements of a motion. The evidence that the applicant presents on appeal does not address the director's findings. The applicant submits a new Form N-565 and a copy of his U.S. passport only.

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As the appeal was untimely filed and the applicant has failed to provide any new facts or evidence that support a motion to reopen or reconsider, the appeal must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected as untimely filed. The application is denied.