

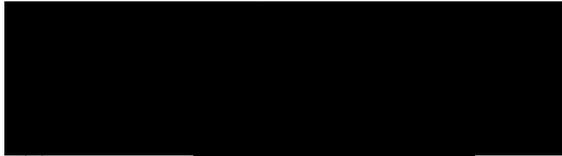
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. A3042
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

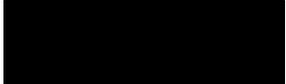
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FEB 22 2005

FILE:



Office: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Date:

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under § 212(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(h)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Application for a Waiver of Inadmissibility was denied by the District Director, Los Angeles, California and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record reflects that on November 19, 2003, the district director found that the applicant was inadmissible to the U.S. pursuant to § 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act ("the Act"), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(2)(A)(i)(I), as an alien who has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. The applicant's waiver application was denied accordingly.

An affected party has 30 days from the date of an adverse decision to file an appeal. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i). If the adverse decision was served by mail, an additional three days is added to the prescribed period. 8 C.F.R. 103.5a(b). The record reflects that the director sent his decision of November 19, 2003 to the petitioner and to counsel at their addresses of record. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) received the appeal 49 days later on January 7, 2004. Therefore, the appeal was untimely filed.

An appeal that is not filed within the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1). If, however, an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen or reconsider, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2). 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.