

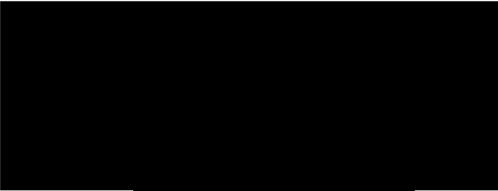
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FILE:



Office: MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Date:

OCT 11 2007

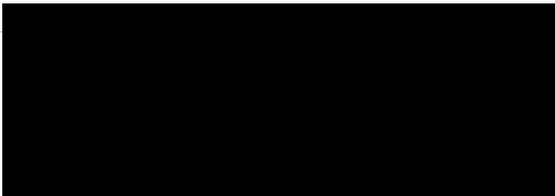
IN RE:

Applicant:



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

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, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Officer-in-Charge (OIC), Moscow, Russia, denied the waiver application. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed. The AAO will return the matter to the director for consideration as a motion to reopen or reconsider.

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 date of filing is not the date of mailing, but the date of actual receipt. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i).

The record indicates that the OIC issued the decision on October 18, 2006. It is noted that the OIC properly gave notice to the applicant that she had 33 days to file the appeal. The record indicates that the Public Liaison Unit of the Moscow office granted counsel a 60-day extension for filing the appeal, indicating that the appeal must be filed by January 21, 2007. The AAO notes that neither the Immigration and Nationality Act nor the pertinent regulations grant authority to extend the 33-day time limit for filing an appeal.

Counsel dated the appeal March 26, 2007; it was received by the OIC on January 17, 2007, 91 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

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

A motion to reopen must state the new facts to be proved in the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(2). 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 on an application or petition must, when filed, also establish that the decision was incorrect based on the evidence of record at the time of the initial decision. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(3). A motion that does not meet applicable requirements shall be dismissed. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(4).

Here, the untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen or reconsider. 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). Therefore, the OIC must consider the untimely appeal as a motion to re* and render a new decision accordingly.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected. The matter is returned to the OIC for consideration as a motion to reopen or reconsider.