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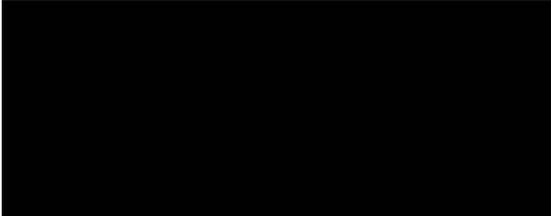
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED] Office: ACCRA, GHANA Date: MAR 24 2008

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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

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 "Robert P. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Acting Officer-in-Charge, Accra, Ghana, denied the Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under section 212(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(i). The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed.

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 after service of the unfavorable decision. The appeal must be submitted to the correct office, and must be accompanied by the required filing fee. 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 acting officer-in-charge issued the decision on September 11, 2006. It is noted that the acting officer-in-charge properly gave notice to the applicant that he had 33 days to file the appeal with the local office. It is further noted that the applicant claims to have received the decision on November 10, 2006. The record contains a letter by the applicant, dated November 20, 2006. The record also contains a letter from the AAO rejecting the applicant's appeal, dated December 18, 2006. Finally, the record contains a receipt indicating the appeal fee was collected, dated February 14, 2007. The appeal, with the appropriate fee, was not received by the acting officer-in-charge until more than 33 days had expired from the date of issuance of the decision, or from the date of receipt as claimed by the applicant. Therefore, the appeal is untimely.

Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO authority to extend the 33-day time limit for filing an appeal. 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).

The applicant indicates on the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal, that additional evidence or a brief is being submitted with the appeal. The appeal, however, is accompanied only by a letter stating that the applicant's spouse would experience extreme hardship if the waiver is denied. The untimely appeal therefore does not meet the requirements of a motion to reopen or reconsider, and there is no requirement to treat the appeal as a motion under 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2).

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.