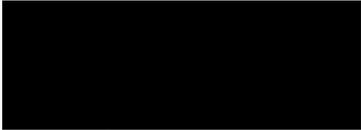


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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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LA

FEB 04 2005

FILE:  Office: Houston Date:

IN RE: Applicant: 

PETITION: Application for Status as a Permanent Resident pursuant to Section 1104 of the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-553, 114 Stat. 2762 (2000), amended by LIFE Act Amendments, Pub. L. 106-554, 114 Stat. 2763 (2000).

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. If your appeal was sustained, or if the matter was remanded for further action, you will be contacted. If your appeal was dismissed, you no longer have a case pending before this office, and you are not entitled to file a motion to reopen or reconsider your case.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for permanent resident status under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act was denied by the District Director, Houston, Texas, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

The district director concluded that the applicant failed to establish that she satisfied the "basic citizenship skills" required under section 1104(c)(2)(E) of the LIFE Act.

On appeal, the applicant submits additional documentation to support her assertion that she has satisfied the English literacy component of the basic citizenship skills requirement.

An affected party filing from within the United States has 30 days from the date of an adverse decision to file an appeal. An appeal received after the 30 day period has tolled will not be accepted. The 30 day period for submitting an appeal begins 3 days after the Notice of Decision is mailed. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.20(b) (1).

If an applicant's last known address of record was outside the United States, and the Notice of Decision was mailed to that foreign address, the appeal must be received by the Service within 60 calendar days after service of the Notice of Decision. An appeal received after the 60 day period has tolled will not be accepted. The 60-day period for submitting an appeal begins 3 days after the Notice of Decision is mailed. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.20(b) (2).

The record reflects that the district director sent his decision of March 3, 2004 to the applicant at her most current address of record. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) did not receive the appeal until 37 days later on April 9, 2004. Therefore, the appeal was untimely filed.

The burden of proving eligibility for the benefit sought remains entirely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The applicant has not sustained that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected as untimely filed.