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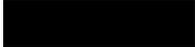


**U.S. Citizenship  
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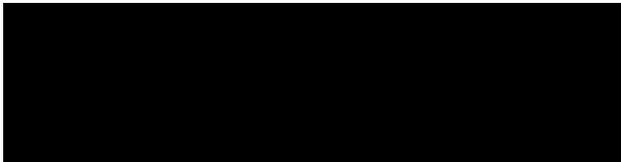
FILE:  Office: Houston

Date: **MAR 28 2005**

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:



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 Interim 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, through her representative, requests that her application be reconsidered in view of the fact that she has now completed 40 hours of instruction in basic English, and has, therefore, demonstrated compliance with the basic citizenship skills requirement of the LIFE Act.

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 Notice of Denial of September 29, 2003 to the applicant and to the applicant's representative at their respective addresses of record. The applicant's appeal was initially submitted directly to the AAO, rather than to the Houston District Office, as required. A properly filed appeal was not received by Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) until November 26, 2003 – fifty-eight (58) days after the decision was issued. The appeal was, therefore, 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.