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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:



Office: Houston

Date: **AUG 31 2006**

MSC 02 243 67395

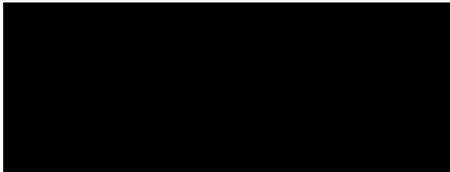
IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION: 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. The file has been returned to the office that originally decided your case. If your appeal was sustained, or if your case 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, Chief  
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. This matter will be remanded for further action and consideration.

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

On appeal, counsel asserts that the district director erred in not issuing a notice of intent to deny to the applicant prior to denying the application as required by 8 C.F.R. § 245a.20(a)(2).

The regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 245a.20(a)(2) state, in pertinent part:

*Denials.* The alien shall be notified in writing of the decision of denial and of the reason(s) therefore. When an adverse decision is proposed, CIS shall notify the applicant of its intent to deny the application and the basis for the proposed denial. The applicant will be granted a period of 30 days from the date of the notice in which to respond to the notice of intent to deny. All relevant material will be considered in making a final decision.

A review of both the electronic and administrative record reveals that a notice of intent to deny was never issued to the applicant. Accordingly, the decision of the district director is withdrawn. The case will be remanded for the purpose of the issuance of a notice of intent to deny as well as a new decision to both counsel and the applicant. The new decision, if adverse, shall be certified to this office for review.

**ORDER:** This matter is remanded for further action and consideration pursuant to the above.