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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
MSC 01 282 60030

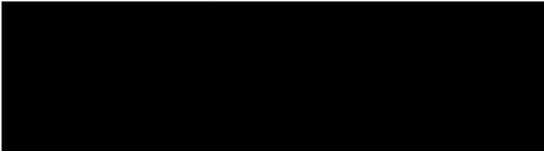
Office: HOUSTON

Date: MAR 12 2007

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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. 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, 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. The appeal will be rejected.

The director denied the application because 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, counsel requests that the applicant be given another opportunity to continue with her application.

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 three days after the Notice of Decision is mailed. 8 C.F.R. § 245a.20(b)(1).

The record reflects that the director sent his decision of October 20, 2004 to the applicant at her address of record in the United States. Although the applicant was advised to file her appeal with the Houston District Office, counsel submitted the appeal directly to the AAO, which returned it with instructions on where to properly file the appeal. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) received the properly filed appeal on December 8, 2004, 49 days after the director issued his decision. Therefore, the appeal was untimely filed.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected as untimely filed.