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U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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FILE:

Office: PHILADELPHIA, PA

Date:

MAY 23 2007

IN RE:

Petitioner:

Beneficiary:

PETITION: Petition for Alien Relative, Form I-130

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

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 petition was denied by the District Director, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

On June 14, 2005, the district director denied the applicant's Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, and the petitioner filed an appeal from that denial. The AAO does not have appellate jurisdiction over an appeal from the denial of an alien relative petition.

The authority to adjudicate appeals is delegated to the AAO by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) pursuant to the authority vested in him through the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296. *See* DHS Delegation Number 0150.1 (effective March 1, 2003); see also 8 C.F.R. § 2.1 (2003). The AAO exercises appellate jurisdiction over the matters described at 8 C.F.R. § 103.1(f)(3)(iii) (as in effect on February 28, 2003).

The AAO cannot exercise appellate jurisdiction over additional matters on its own volition, or at the request of an applicant or petitioner. As a "statement of general . . . applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy," the creation of appeal rights for alien relative petition denials meets the definition of an agency "rule" under section 551 of the Administrative Procedure Act. The granting of appeal rights has a "substantive legal effect" because it is creating a new administrative "right," and it involves an economic interest (the fee). "If a rule creates rights, assigns duties, or imposes obligations, the basic tenor of which is not already outlined in the law itself, then it is substantive." *La Casa Del Convaleciente*, 965 F.2d at 1178. All substantive or legislative rule making requires notice and comment in the Federal Register.

The AAO does not have jurisdiction over an appeal from the denial of a Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative. Accordingly, the appeal must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.