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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass, Rm. A3042, 425 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20529

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: BOSTON DISTRICT Date: JUL 19 2004

IN RE: Petitioner: [redacted]
Beneficiaries:

Application: Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative Pursuant to Section 101(b)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(b)(1)(F)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

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. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Elizabeth O'Brien
Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION**: The Interim Director, Boston, Massachusetts District Office, denied the immigrant visa petition. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed.

In order to properly file an appeal, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i) provides that the affected party must file the complete appeal within 30 days of after service of the unfavorable decision. If the decision was mailed, the appeal must be filed within 33 days. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b).

The record indicates that the interim director issued the decision on June 4, 2003. It is noted that the interim director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. Although the petitioner mailed the appeal on July 4, 2003, it was received by Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on July 14, 2003, or 40 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(*2*) states that, if an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen or a motion to reconsider, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the interim district director. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). The interim district director declined to treat the late appeal as a motion and forwarded the matter to the AAO.

As the appeal was untimely filed, the appeal must be rejected.

**ORDER**: The appeal is rejected.