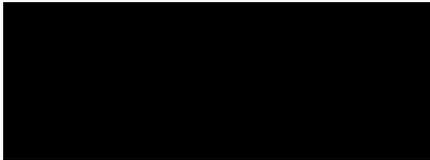


**Identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy**



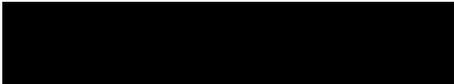
**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

PUBLIC COPY



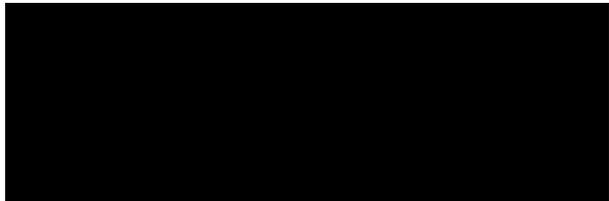
Dz

FILE: WAC 03 219 50885 Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER Date: **NOV 15 2005**

IN RE: Petitioner: 
Beneficiary:

PETITION: Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)

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.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The director of the service center denied the nonimmigrant visa petition and 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 director issued the decision on September 30, 2003. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. Although counsel dated the appeal October 31, 2003, it was received by CIS on November 10, 2003, or 41 days¹ after the decision was issued.

On appeal, counsel states that pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1) a motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires, may be excused in the discretion of CIS where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and was beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Counsel states that the appeal was filed four days late because the petitioner sought new counsel.

The AAO finds that the delay was not reasonable and was not beyond the control of the petitioner as the petitioner had an opportunity to timely file the Form I-1290B, and send a brief and/or evidence to the Administrative Appeals Unit (AAU) within 30 days; or for good cause, beyond the 30-day period. 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 service center director. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). The 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.

¹ The AAO notes that the 38th day was on Friday, November 7, 2003.