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U.S. Citizenship
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File: WAC 05 800 01964 Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: NOV 03 2006

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:

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

IN 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, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director of the California 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 pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(I).

The petitioner filed this nonimmigrant visa petition seeking to employ the beneficiary as a teacher having specialized knowledge as an L-1B nonimmigrant intracompany transferee pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(L). The petitioner is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of California and is a school. The director denied the petition concluding that the petitioner did not establish that the beneficiary would be performing services involving specialized knowledge.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2) requires an affected party to file the complete appeal within 30 days after service of the decision, or, in accordance with 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b), within 33 days if the decision was served by mail. The record indicates that the decision of the director was faxed to and received by counsel to the petitioner on Friday, October 22, 2005. The director used the fax number provided by counsel to the petitioner in the Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service, and which was identified as her preferred form of communication. Counsel to the petitioner filed an appeal with the California Service Center on Tuesday, November 23, 2004, 32 days after the decision was served upon counsel to the petitioner by fax.

Thus, the appeal was not timely filed and must be rejected on these grounds pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(I).

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 as described in 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(2) or a motion to reconsider as described in 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(3), 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.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.