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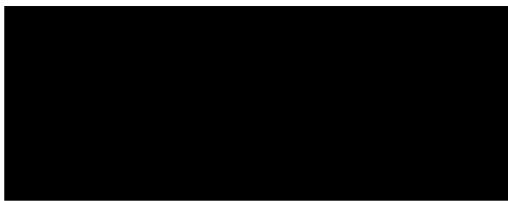
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000
Washington, DC 20529



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

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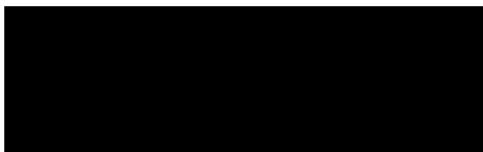


FILE: SRC 03 155 53118 Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date: OCT 04 2007

IN RE: Petitioner: [REDACTED]
Beneficiary: [REDACTED]

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, Texas Service Center, denied the nonimmigrant visa petition. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal from the director's denial of a motion to reopen. The appeal is rejected as untimely filed.

The petitioner is a hospital. It seeks to employ the beneficiary as a medical technologist. Accordingly the petitioner endeavors to classify the beneficiary as a nonimmigrant pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b).

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 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). In accordance with 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i), an application received in a Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) office shall be stamped to show the time and date of actual receipt, if it is properly signed, executed, and accompanied by the correct fee. For calculating the date of filing, the appeal shall be regarded as properly filed on the date that it is so stamped by the service center or district office.

The record indicates that the director issued the decision on August 16, 2006. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. According to the date stamp on the Form I-290B Notice of Appeal, it was received by CIS on September 19, 2006, or 34 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 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.

The AAO notes that the Form I-290B received September 19, 2006 indicated that a brief and/or additional evidence would be submitted to the AAO within 30 days. Careful review of the record reveals no subsequent submission of a brief or evidence; all of the petitioner's documentation in the record predates the issuance of the notice of decision. Accordingly, even if considered timely filed, the record does not include a brief or evidence in support of an appeal. An officer to whom an appeal is taken shall summarily dismiss any appeal when the party concerned fails to identify specifically any erroneous conclusion of law or statement of fact for the appeal. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(1)(v).

Counsel's statement on the Form I-290B reads:

In Deying [sic] the Motion for Reconsideration, the Service erred in finding that the appeal was untimely filed.

The Service erred in its finding that petitioner did not submit any evidence to establish that the decision was incorrect based on the evidence on record at the time of the initial decision.

Of note, counsel's assertion on appeal is also an insufficient basis for appeal. The unsupported assertions of counsel do not constitute evidence. *Matter of Obaigbena*, 19 I&N Dec. 533, 534 (BIA 1988); *Matter of Laureano*, 19 I&N Dec. 1 (BIA 1983); *Matter of Ramirez-Sanchez*, 17 I&N Dec. 503, 506 (BIA 1980). As neither the petitioner nor counsel presents additional evidence or argument on appeal sufficient to overcome the decision of the director, the appeal would be summarily dismissed in accordance with 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(1)(v), if the appeal had not already been rejected as untimely filed.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected as untimely filed. The petition is denied.