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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

PUBLIC

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FILE:

WAC 06 274 51041

Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: JAN 13 2009

IN RE:

Petitioner:
Beneficiary:

PETITION: Petition for Special Immigrant Religious Worker Pursuant to Section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(4), as described at Section 101(a)(27)(C) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(C)

IN 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.


John F. Grissom, Acting Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The employment-based immigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, California Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as improperly and untimely filed.

The regulation at 8 C.F. R. § 103.3(a)(1)(iii) states, in pertinent part:

(B) *Meaning of affected party.* For purposes of this section and §§ 103.4 and 103.5 of this part, *affected party* (in addition to the Service) means the person or entity with legal standing in a proceeding. It does not include the beneficiary of a visa petition.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v) states:

Improperly filed appeal – (A) Appeal filed by person or entity not entitled to file it – (1) Rejection without refund of filing fee. An appeal filed by a person or entity not entitled to file it must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee the Service has accepted will not be refunded.

Only an affected party, a person or entity with legal standing, may file an appeal of an unfavorable decision. The Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal, is signed by the beneficiary. As the appeal has not been filed by the petitioner or by any entity with legal standing in the proceeding, the appeal has not been properly filed and must be rejected.

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 date of filing is not the date of mailing, but the date of actual receipt. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i).

The record indicates that the director issued the decision on September 20, 2007. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. The Form I-290B was received by the director on November 19, 2007, 60 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

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

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.