Identifying data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

PUBLIC COPY

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[redacted]

D13

Date: FEB 2 8 2012 Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER FILE: [redacted]

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary: [redacted]

PETITION: Nonimmigrant Petition for Religious Worker Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(R)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(R)(1)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All of the documents related to this matter have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Please be advised that any further inquiry that you might have concerning your case must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied by us in reaching our decision, or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. The specific requirements for filing such a request can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of $630. Please be aware that 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i) requires that any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen.

Thank you,

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, California Service Center, denied the nonimmigrant visa petition. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

The petitioner is a . It seeks to classify the beneficiary as a 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), to perform services as a kirtankar. The director determined that the petitioner had not established that the proffered position qualifies as that of a religious occupation.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2) provides, in pertinent part:

> (v) *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.
>
> (2) *Appeal by attorney or representative without proper Form G–28—*
>
> (i) *General.* If an appeal is filed by an attorney or representative without a properly executed Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative (Form G–28) entitling that person to file the appeal, the appeal is considered improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee the Service has accepted will not be refunded regardless of the action taken.
>
> (ii) *When favorable action warranted. . . .*
>
> (iii) *When favorable action not warranted.* If the reviewing official decides favorable action is not warranted with respect to an otherwise properly filed appeal, that official shall ask the attorney or representative to submit Form G–28 directly to the AAU. The official shall also forward the appeal and the relating record of proceeding to the AAU. The appeal may be considered properly filed as of its original filing date if the attorney or representative submits a properly executed Form G–28 entitling that person to file the appeal.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(1) provides:

> *General.* Every application, petition, appeal, motion, request, or other document submitted on the form prescribed by this chapter shall be executed and filed in accordance with the instructions on the form, such instructions (including where an application or petition should be filed) being hereby incorporated into the particular section of the regulations in this chapter requiring its submission.

The instructions for the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, advise the appellant that:

> If you wish, you may be represented at no expense to the U.S. Government by an attorney or other duly authorized representative. Your attorney or representative must submit a Form G-28 with the appeal or motion. If the appeal or motion is filed without a properly executed Form G-28, it will be dismissed or rejected.

Additionally, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 292.4(a), as well as the instructions to the Form G-28, provides that:

> An appearance must be filed on the appropriate form as prescribed by DHS [Department of Homeland Security] by the attorney or accredited representative appearing in each case. The form must be properly completed and signed by the petitioner, applicant, or respondent to authorize representation in order for the appearance to be recognized by DHS. The appearance will be recognized by the specific immigration component of DHS in which it was filed until the conclusion of the matter for which it was entered. *This does not change the requirement that a new form must be filed with an appeal filed with the Administrative Appeals Office of USCIS.* [Emphasis added.]

Finally, 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.

Only an affected party, a person or entity with legal standing, may file an appeal of an unfavorable decision. The Form I-290B is signed by [redacted] However, [redacted] did not submit a Form G-28 with the appeal authorizing her to act on behalf of the petitioner. By fax of February 7, 2012, the AAO requested [redacted] to submit a Form G-28 in accordance with the instructions for the Form I-290B and G-28, and the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 292.4(a). The request was transmitted to the fax number listed on the Form I-290B and on counsel's letterhead, and advised [redacted] to

submit the properly executed Form G-28 to the AAO within 10 calendar days. failed to respond to the AAO's request.

As has failed to provide a properly executed Form G-28 authorizing her to act on behalf of the petitioner in the appellate stage of this proceeding, she cannot be considered as the petitioner's legal representative. Accordingly, the appeal has not been filed by the petitioner or by any entity with legal standing in the proceeding. Therefore, the appeal has not been properly filed and must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.