

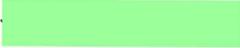
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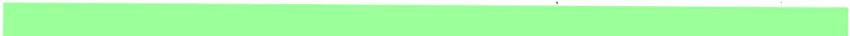
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



DATE: **FEB 20 2013** Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER FILE: 

IN RE: Petitioner: 
Beneficiary: 

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.

Thank you,


Ron Rosenberg
Acting 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 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 or the attorney or representative of record must submit 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. § 103.8(b). The date of filing is not the date of submission, but the date of actual receipt with the required fee. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i). An appeal that is not timely filed must be rejected as improperly filed. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1).

The record indicates that the service center director issued the decision on August 7, 2012. It is noted that the service center director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 30 days to file the appeal. Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO authority to extend this time limit.

The record reflects that the petitioner initially submitted the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, without a signature. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i) provides, in pertinent part, that “[a] benefit request which is not signed . . . will be rejected.”

The director returned the Form I-290B to the petitioner on September 7, 2012. The petitioner filed the completed Form I-290B on September 20, 2012, or 44 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed. An appeal that is not timely filed must be rejected as improperly filed. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1).

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 Director of the California Service Center. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). The director determined that the late appeal did not meet the requirements of 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.