

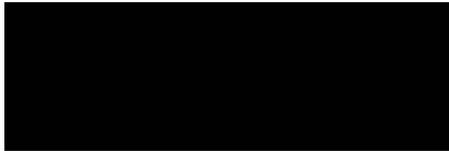
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000
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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: JAN - 2 2009

WAC 07 093 50348

IN RE:

Petitioner:

Beneficiary:



PETITION: Petition for Alien Fiancé(e) Pursuant to Section 101(a)(15)(K) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(K)

ON 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.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. 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 \$585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required by 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).


John F. Grissom, Acting Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The nonimmigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, California Service Center, and is now on appeal before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO). The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed. The AAO will return the matter to the director for consideration as a motion to reopen and the issuance of a new decision.

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 July 14, 2007 and the decision was mailed to the petitioner on July 18, 2007. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that he had 33 days to file the appeal with the California Service Center. The petitioner submitted the appeal on August 8, 2007. The appeal, however, was returned to the petitioner on September 27, 2007 because it was accompanied by an incorrect fee. Therefore, the appeal was not properly filed with the Citizenship and Immigration Service until October 25, 2007, 99 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

Although the AAO notes that the petitioner was given incorrect information regarding the fee for filing an appeal, neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO authority to extend the 33-day time limit for filing an appeal. As the appeal was untimely filed, the appeal must be rejected. Nevertheless, 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.

A motion to reopen must state the new facts to be proved in the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(2). A motion to reconsider must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions to establish that the decision was based on an incorrect application of law or Service policy. A motion to reconsider a decision on an application or petition must, when filed, also establish that the decision was incorrect based on the evidence of record at the time of the initial decision. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(3). A motion that does not meet applicable requirements shall be dismissed. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(4).

On appeal, the petitioner submits new evidence, including materials documenting a September 2007 trip to Vietnam to meet the beneficiary. Thus, the untimely appeal meets the requirements

of a motion to reopen. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the officer in charge. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). Therefore, the officer in charge must consider the untimely appeal as a motion to reopen and render a new decision accordingly.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected. The matter is returned to the officer in charge for consideration as a motion to reopen and the issuance of a new decision.