



U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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DATE **MAR 29 2012** Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER FILE

IN RE: Petitioner:
Beneficiary:

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

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. Please note that all documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Please also note that any further inquiry must be made to that office.

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 as untimely filed. The AAO will return the matter to the director for consideration as a motion to reopen and reconsider.

The petitioner filed this nonimmigrant petition seeking to extend the beneficiary's status as an L-1A nonimmigrant intracompany transferee pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(L). The director denied the petition on December 20, 2010 and the petitioner appealed the director 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 or the attorney or representative of record 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). 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 service center director denied the petition on December 20, 2010. It is noted that the director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal and properly instructed the petitioner to submit the appeal to the California Service Center.

The AAO notes that former counsel for the petitioner initially submitted the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal of Motion, on January 20, 2011. However, counsel submitted the appeal directly to the AAO, and not to the California Service Center, as required by the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i). On January 21, 2011, the AAO returned the appeal to former counsel and advised that the appeal must be filed with the USCIS office that issued the unfavorable decision. The petitioner properly filed the appeal with the service center on January 31, 2011, 42 days after the director's decision was issued. Consequently, the appeal in this matter was untimely filed. Any appeal that is not filed within the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1). Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO authority to extend this time limit.

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 matter will therefore be returned to the director. If the director determines that the late appeal meets the requirements of a motion, the motion shall be granted and a new decision will be issued.

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

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.