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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**



E2

Date: **FEB 22 2012** Office: ALBANY, NY

File:

IN RE:

APPLICATION: Application for Certificate of Citizenship under Section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1431.

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: 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 Application for Certificate of Citizenship (Form N-600) was denied by the Field Office Director, Albany, New York, and 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 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 appeal must be filed with the office that made the unfavorable decision. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i).

The record reflects that, on June 7, 2011, the field office director denied the Form N-600. The director properly gave notice to the applicant that he had 30 days to file the appeal (33 days if mailed) and that any appeal must be filed with the Albany, New York field office, not the AAO. The applicant incorrectly submitted the appeal directly to the AAO on July 7, 2011. The AAO returned the appeal to the applicant and informed him that he had incorrectly submitted the appeal with this office and that the appeal must be submitted to the office which made the unfavorable decision, in this case, the Albany, New York field office. The applicant's appeal was not received by the Albany, New York field office until July 14, 2011, or 37 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

Neither the Immigration and Nationality Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO or the field office director 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. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the field office director, Albany, New York. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii).

The matter will therefore be returned to the field office director. If the field office 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.