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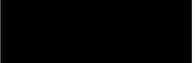
U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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HL

FILE:



Office: ROME, ITALY

Date:

OCT 02 2007

IN RE:

Applicant:



APPLICATION: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under Section 212(h) of the
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(h).

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

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.

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Rome, Italy. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed. The matter will be returned to the district director for consideration as a motion to reopen.

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. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b). The date of filing is not the date of mailing, but the date of actual receipt. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i).

The district director issued the applicant's decision on April 4, 2006. It is noted that the district director properly gave notice to the applicant that he had 33 days to file the appeal. The record reflects that the appeal was sent to the AAO in error. An appeal is not properly filed until the office with proper jurisdiction receives it. The record indicates that the appeal was received by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) office in Rome, Italy on May 26, 2006 – 52 days after the denial decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO authority to extend the 33-day time limit for filing an appeal. 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).

In the present matter, the Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility (Form I-601 application) was denied because the applicant failed to establish his wife would suffer extreme hardship if he were denied admission into the United States. The applicant's untimely appeal contains a letter written by his wife asserting that she will suffer financial, emotional and physical hardship if the applicant's Form I-601 application is denied. The untimely appeal contains new evidence including family member, landlord and medical information letters, as well as car accident and international travel cost documentation. The AAO finds that the untimely appeal thus 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 district director, Rome, Italy. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). Therefore, the district director 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 director for consideration as a motion to reopen.