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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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U.S. Citizenship
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H2

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FILE:



Office: PHILADELPHIA, PA

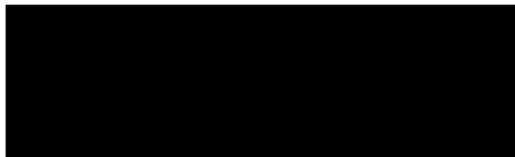
Date: OCT 19 2007

IN RE:



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

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Interim District Director, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, denied the waiver application. 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 interim 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. *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 interim district director issued the decision on January 15, 2004. It is noted that the interim district director properly gave notice to the applicant that she had 33 days to file the appeal with the District Office. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) received the appeal on March 9, 2004, or 54 days after the decision was issued. As an appeal is not properly filed until the district office receives it, the appeal in this matter was untimely filed.

The AAO notes that the applicant originally submitted the appeal on February 18, 2004, but that it was rejected based on a determination that the applicant had submitted an incorrect filing fee. However, the applicant's February 18, 2004, submission of the appeal was, itself, untimely, as it occurred 34 days after the interim district director issued her decision.

Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO or the interim district 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.

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).

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

ORDER: The appeal is rejected. The matter is returned to the interim district director for consideration as a motion to reconsider.