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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



H3

FILE:

Office: ACCRA

Date:

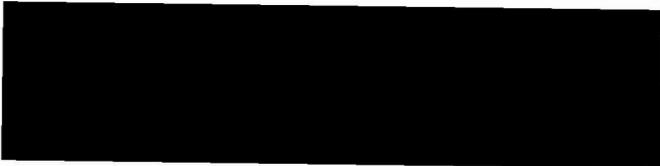
JUL 17 2006

IN RE:



APPLICATION: Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility under Sections 212(a)(9)(B)(v) and 212(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a)(9)(B)(v) and 1182(i)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



ORIGINAL COPY

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 Officer in Charge, U.S. Consulate, Accra, Ghana, denied the waiver application. 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 record indicates that the officer in charge issued the decision on April 25, 2005. It is noted that the officer in charge properly gave notice to the applicant that he had 33 days to file the appeal. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) received the appeal on June 27, 2005, or 63 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

Moreover, counsel executed the Notice of Appeal to the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) (Form I-290B), on June 13, 2005, 49 days after the decision was issued.

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 officer in charge, U.S. Consulate, Accra, Ghana. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). The officer in charge declined to treat the late appeal as a motion and forwarded the matter to the AAO.

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

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.