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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090  
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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[REDACTED]

Date: **DEC 03 2010**

FILE: [REDACTED] Office: ATHENS, GREECE

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

[REDACTED]

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,

*Tariq Syed*  
for

Perry Rhew  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The waiver application was denied by Officer in Charge (OIC), Athens, Greece, and 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 OIC for treatment 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 after 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 OIC issued the decision on August 26, 2008. It is noted that the OIC properly gave notice to the applicant that she had 33 days to file her appeal. The OIC instructed the applicant to pay the \$585.00 filing fee in person at the US Embassy or the local currency equivalent. Additionally, the OIC informed the applicant that fees may also be paid with an international money order or a direct money transfer to their bank account. The applicant sent a personal check, the personal check was sent back and the applicant submitted a cashier's check on November 4, 2008. The record reflects that a Form I-290B, dated January 6, 2009 and appealing the August 26, 2008 decision, was filed with fee payment at the US Embassy in Athens on January 8, 2009. As such, the appeal was properly filed on January 8, 2009, which is 135 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

Neither the Act nor the pertinent regulations grant the AAO or the OIC the authority to extend the 33-day time limit for filing an appeal. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(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 reopen based on counsel's appeal brief, photos and documents of a car accident, and 2007 U.S. Department of State country reports on Mexico and Iran. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the OIC. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii). Therefore, the OIC 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 Officer in Charge for treatment as a motion to reopen and the issuance of a new decision.