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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000  
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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FILE:



Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER

Date: DEC 17 2008

LIN 07 192 52491

IN RE:

Applicant:



PETITION: Application for Travel Document Pursuant to Section 223 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1203

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.

John F. Grissom, Acting Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The Director, Nebraska Service Center, denied the application. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Canada who seeks to obtain a travel document (reentry permit) under section 223 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1203. The director denied the application after determining that the application was filed after the applicant had departed the United States.

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). In accordance with 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i), an application received in a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office shall be stamped to show the time and date of actual receipt, if it is properly signed, executed, and accompanied by the correct fee. For calculating the date of filing, the appeal shall be regarded as properly filed on the date that it is so stamped by the service center or district office.

The record indicates that the director issued the decision on June 2, 2008. The Form I-290B indicates that it was stamped as received by USCIS on July 21, 2008, or 49 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

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. An untimely-filed appeal must meet specific requirements to be treated as a motion. The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(2) requires that a motion to reopen state the new facts to be provided in the reopened proceeding, supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Furthermore, 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(3) requires that 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 USCIS policy.

Review of the record indicates that the appeal does not meet the requirements of a motion. The applicant has not provided new facts and has not established that the director's decision was based upon an erroneous conclusion of law. The applicant states on appeal that she did not file the Form I-131 prior to her departure from the United States because she did not know that it was a requirement. She states that she is caring for her elderly and ill father in Canada and that she considers the United States her home.

The applicant's explanation regarding her failure to file a Form I-131 prior to her departure is insufficient. Section 223 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1203, provides, in pertinent part, that an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence who intends to visit abroad and return to the United States to resume that status may make an application for a permit to reenter



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the United States. The Act provides no exception regarding the physical presence requirement at the time of filing a Form I-131. Since the application was not filed until after the applicant had departed the United States, the application may not be approved as a matter of law.

As the appeal was untimely filed and the applicant has failed to provide any new facts or evidence that support a motion to reopen or reconsider, the appeal must be rejected.

**ORDER:** The appeal is rejected as untimely filed. The application is denied.