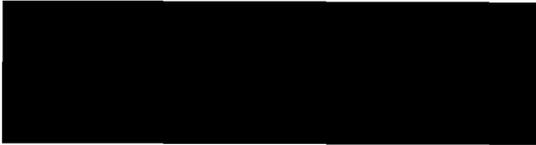


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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**



M1

DATE: **OCT 26 2011** Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER

FILE: 

IN RE: Applicant: 

APPLICATION: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254a

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

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 Nebraska Service Center. 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 Nebraska Service Center 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Rhew".

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

The applicant claims to be a citizen of Haiti who is seeking Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

The applicant submitted a copy of her Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record, which reflected she was admitted into the United States on February 18, 2010, as a nonimmigrant visitor. The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish she had continuously resided in the United States since January 12, 2010, and had been continuously physically present in the United States since January 21, 2010.

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 regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i) provides that an application or petition that is submitted with the wrong filing fee shall be rejected as improperly filed.

The record indicates that the director issued the Notice of Decision on October 20, 2010, and it was mailed to the applicant at her address of record. The Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, was received at the Nebraska Service Center on November 4, 2010; however, it was rejected because the proper fee was not attached. The appeal was returned to the applicant on the same day with instructions to file the appropriate fee. The appeal was received at the Nebraska Service Center on November 24, 2010; however, it was rejected because the financial instrument was not designated to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as the payee. The appeal was returned to the applicant on November 29, 2010, with instructions to submit the financial instrument payable to USCIS. The appeal was received at the Nebraska Service Center on December 23, 2010; however, it was rejected because the proper fee was not attached.¹ The appeal with the proper fee was received at the Nebraska Service Center on February 7, 2011, 110 days after the 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. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the Director, Nebraska Service Center. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii).

¹ The fee was increased from \$585.00 to \$630.00 effective November 23, 2010. *See* 75 FR 58961-58991 (Sept. 24, 2010).

The matter will therefore be returned to the director. If the director determines that the late appeal meets the requirements of a motion, the motion shall be granted and a new decision will be issued.

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

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.