

Amy Winehouse's Request for Visa Denied

AP Associated Press



Singer Amy Winehouse arrives at the MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles, in this June 3, 2007, file photo. (AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian, file)

LONDON (AP) — Amy Winehouse will not be performing at this year's Grammy Awards because her request for a visa has been turned down by the U.S. Embassy, her publicist said Thursday.

"Amy has been progressing well since entering a rehabilitation clinic two weeks ago and although disappointed with the decision has accepted the ruling and will be concentrating on her recovery," the Outside Organization, which counts the troubled retro-soul sensation among its clients, said in an e-mail.

The statement didn't say why her application had been rejected.

The U.S. Embassy in London declined to comment late Thursday. No one answered the phone at the Outside Organization.

The Outside Organization said in the e-mail that Winehouse — who shot to fame with the autobiographical single "Rehab" — was disappointed but had been treated well by embassy staff.

The 24-year-old singer and her acclaimed "Back to Black" album are nominated in six categories at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday.

Her potent blend of blues, jazz, pop and soul has won praise from critics and fans, but Winehouse has become as famous for her chaotic personal life as for her music.

Since the album's U.S. release last year, she has canceled a slew of appearances amid reports of drug use.

Last month, The Sun newspaper ran still images from a video that it claimed showed Winehouse inhaling fumes from a small pipe. The images were said to have been filmed during a party at her London home.

Shortly thereafter, Winehouse entered a London rehabilitation center, and has been questioned by police.

Her husband, Blake Fielder-Civil, is in jail awaiting trial on charges of assault and lying to police.

Winehouse and Fielder-Civil ran into trouble in October when they were arrested in Bergen, Norway, on charges of marijuana possession. They were released after paying fines of \$715 each.

Her lawyer later said Winehouse was appealing the fine because she didn't understand that under Norwegian law, accepting a fine is the same as pleading guilty, which could have serious consequences when she was seeking to enter the U.S.