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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



Public Copy

FILE: [REDACTED]
LIN 99 201 50454

Office: Nebraska Service Center

Date: MAY - 9 2001

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

identification data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Acting Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

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

The director determined that the applicant is ineligible for TPS because she has been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors. The director, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant requests reconsideration because she is the mother of three children all born and raised in the United States, and she is married to a United States citizen. She expresses remorse for the crime she committed and states that what she regrets most is that her children are suffering because of her crime and ignorance of the U.S. laws.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. 244.2, provide that an alien who is a national of a foreign state designated by the Attorney General is eligible for temporary temporary protected status only if such alien establishes that he or she:

- (a) Is a national of a state designated under section 244(b) of the Act;
- (b) Has been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999;
- (c) Has continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998;
- (d) Is admissible as an immigrant except as provided under section 244.3;
- (e) Is not ineligible under 8 C.F.R. 244.4; and
- (f) (1) Registers for TPS during the initial registration period; or
 - (2) During any subsequent extension of such designation if at the time of the initial registration period:
 - (i) The applicant is a nonimmigrant or has been granted voluntary departure status or any relief from removal;

(ii) The applicant has an application for change of status, adjustment of status, asylum, voluntary departure, or any relief from removal which is pending or subject to further review or appeal;

(iii) The applicant is a parolee or has a pending request for reparole; or

(iv) The applicant is a spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant.

Pursuant to section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. 244.4(a), an alien shall not be eligible for temporary protected status if the Attorney General finds that the alien has been convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States.

8 C.F.R. 244.1 defines "felony" and "misdemeanor:"

Felony means a crime committed in the United States punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, except when the offense is defined by the state as a misdemeanor, and the sentence actually imposed is one year or less regardless of the term such alien actually served. Under this exception for purposes of section 244 of the Act, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor.

Misdemeanor means a crime committed in the United States, either:

(1) Punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, or

(2) A crime treated as a misdemeanor under the term "felony" of this section.

For purposes of this definition, any crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of five days or less shall not be considered a felony or misdemeanor.

Section 212(a)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2), provides that aliens inadmissible and ineligible to receive visas and ineligible to be admitted to the United States include:

(A)(i) Any alien convicted of, or who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of --

(II) a violation of (or a conspiracy or attempt to violate) any law or regulation of a State, the United States, or a foreign country relating to a controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802).

(C) Any alien who the consular officer or immigration officer knows or has reason to believe is or has been an illicit trafficker in any such controlled substance or is or has been a knowing assister, abettor, conspirator, or colluder with others in the illicit trafficking in any such controlled substance, is inadmissible.

The record reflects that on July 1, 1992, in the Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit, Broward County, Florida, Case No. 92-5086CFB, the applicant entered a plea of nolo contendere to Count 1, manufacturing cannabis, a felony; Count 2, possession of drug paraphernalia, a misdemeanor; and Count 3, negligent treatment of children, a misdemeanor. The applicant was found guilty as to all 3 counts, adjudication of guilt was withheld, and she was placed on probation for a period of 3 years.

The applicant is, therefore, ineligible for TPS because she is an alien who has been convicted of one felony and two misdemeanors. Furthermore, a conviction of manufacturing cannabis renders the applicant inadmissible to the United States pursuant to sections 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) and 212(a)(2)(C) of the Act. See section 244(c)(2)(A)(iii). There is no waiver available to an alien convicted of a felony or three misdemeanors committed in the United States. Furthermore, there is no waiver available to an alien inadmissible under sections 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) and 212(a)(2)(C) of the Act.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that she meets the requirements enumerated above and is otherwise eligible under the provisions of section 244 of the Act. The applicant has failed to meet this burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed. This decision constitutes a final notice of ineligibility.