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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

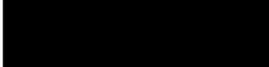
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



FILE: 

Office: Nebraska Service Center

Date: SEP 17 2001

IN RE: Applicant: 

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

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

Public Copy

INSTRUCTIONS:

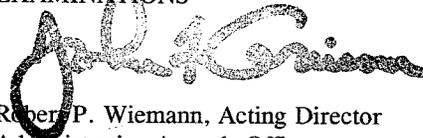
This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

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

Identifying data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

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 Honduras who indicated on her application that she unlawfully entered the United States in May 1998. She filed her application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1254a, on August 15, 2000. The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish she was eligible for late initial registration.

On appeal, the applicant requests that she be allowed to proceed with her case, because she is the wife of a person currently from a TPS program.

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

- (a) Is a national, as defined in section 101(a)(21) of the Act, of a foreign state designated under section 244(b) of the Act;
- (b) Has been continuously physically present in the United States since the effective date of the most recent designation of that foreign state;
- (c) Has continuously resided in the United States since such date as the Attorney General may designate;
- (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 announced by public notice in the *Federal Register*, 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.

The term continuously physically present, as used in 8 C.F.R. 244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. Any departure, not authorized by the Service, including any brief, casual, and innocent departure, shall be deemed to break an alien's continuous physical presence.

The term continuously resided as used in 8 C.F.R. 244.1 means residing in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations and since December 30, 1998. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous residence in the United States by reason of brief, casual, and innocent absence as defined within this section or due merely to a brief temporary trip abroad required by emergency or extenuating circumstances outside the control of the alien.

Hondurans applying for TPS must demonstrate, in addition to entry prior to December 30, 1998, that they have continuously resided in the United States since January 5, 1999. The applicant alleges that she entered the United States unlawfully in May 1998 and was employed under the name of [REDACTED]

The initial TPS designation for Hondurans expired on June 8, 2000. On June 28, 2000, the Service announced that late initial registration would be available to Hondurans who met the initial qualifications of nationality and residency.

Further, to qualify for late initial registration the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period:

he/she was in a valid immigration status, or had been granted voluntary departure or any relief from removal

had an application pending for change of status, adjustment of status, asylum, voluntary departure, or any other relief from removal pending or subject to further review or appeal,

or was the spouse/child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he or she meets the above requirements. Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by the Service. 8 C.F.R. 244.9(a). The sufficiency of all evidence will be

judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. To meet his or her burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his or her own statements. 8 C.F.R. 244.9(b).

The record reflects that the applicant was not in a valid immigration status when she filed the TPS application in August 2000, and the applicant has failed to provide evidence that she and Paz Perez are the same person. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

An alien applying for temporary protected status has the burden of proving that he or 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.