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U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
1313A, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



FILE: LIN01 187 50606 Office: Nebraska Service Center

Date: 11 Apr 2002

IN RE: Applicant:



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

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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, 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 El Salvador who indicated on the application that she was present in the United States without a lawful admission or parole on December 20, 1999. The applicant filed the application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. 1254a, on May 30, 2001. The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish she had been residing in the United States since February 13, 2001, has been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001, and was eligible for late initial registration.

On appeal, counsel challenges the Service's refusal to accept handwritten receipts. Counsel states that this ban is not supported by any regulatory authority and the applicant provided evidence specifically authorized in the regulations.

The initial application was supported by identity documentation and three generic receipts dated January 1, 2001, February 01, 2001, and March 01, 2001, respectively, listing the names of

indicating that \$200 cash was paid as rent for a house in . The documents were signed by documentation indicates that house is located

The initial May 2001 application listed the applicant's address as . A Form G-28 signed by the applicant on April 6, 2001, lists that same address as her place of residence. However, an affidavit submitted on appeal indicates that the applicant lived from January 1, 2001, through April 30, 2001, and she saw the applicant daily. An affidavit submitted on appeal and signed by the landlord, reflects that the applicant resided at that residence from November 1, 2000, until April 30, 2001. Based on the two affidavits, did not see the applicant at all during the months of November and December 2000 but every day after that. Those two affidavits are not consistent and less weight will be given to them. See, Matter of E.M., 20 I&N Dec. 77 (Comm. 1989).

It is unclear when the applicant actually entered the United States and the record fails to discuss that matter in detail. The face of the application contains the date December 20, 1999, as her date of entry. The second page contains the date December 20, 2000, as her date of entry. This discrepancy raises two questions. (1) If she entered in December 1999, where is the documentary evidence to show that she was in the United States during the period of time between December 1999 and December 2000? Such evidence would strengthen her

claim. (2) If she entered in December 2000, how could she reside in Milan, Missouri, in November 2000?

An additional hand written receipt was submitted on appeal to reflect that rent was paid in [REDACTED] for the month of April for the above named persons. Although [REDACTED] appear to be approximately 90-95 miles apart, the record fails to explain the applicant's reason for having two simultaneous addresses [REDACTED] for the month of April 2001.

On August 23, 2001, counsel submitted a letter stating that the applicant entered the United States without inspection, so she does not possess an entry-stamped passport or Form I-94. All available evidence of prior residence has been submitted. The evidence of the applicant's residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, included two money order transfer receipts dated 6/15/01 and 7/16/01, a postcard addressed to the applicant dated 7/23/01 and a letter from a health care provider dated 7/27/01 showing the applicant's address as 118 South Fellows Avenue, Ottumwa, IA 52501.

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.

El Salvador was designated for the second time on March 9, 2001, based on the Attorney General's determination that recent earthquakes have resulted in a substantial temporary disruption of living conditions.

Therefore, term continuously physically present, as used in 8 C.F.R. 244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States since February 13, 2001. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States by reason of brief, casual, and innocent absence as defined within this section. This second TPS designation expires on September 9, 2002.

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 March 9, 2001. 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.

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 documentation contained in the record is inconsistent and insufficient in this matter [REDACTED] who lists her address

[REDACTED] states that she has a rental house [REDACTED]. This assertion is unsupported in the record. Further,

Christina Mason has not provided evidence that she has rented that property in the past or has some type of formal rental agreement that individuals sign prior to renting such a property.

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.