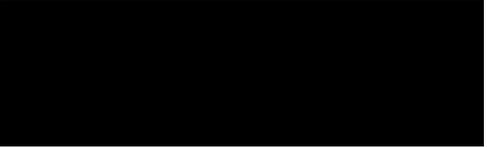




U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

MI



FILE: [REDACTED] Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER Date: 4/12/2014

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

for Robert P. Wiemann, 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 Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of El Salvador who indicated on her application that she entered the United States on July 15, 1992, without a lawful admission or parole.

The director denied the application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254, because the applicant failed to establish she was eligible for late registration. The applicant filed her first application for TPS on September 10, 2002.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement.

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 is eligible for 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 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 Temporary Protected Status 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,
- (g) Has filed an application for late registration with the appropriate Service director within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of conditions described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

The phrase continuously physically present, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States by virtue of brief, casual, and innocent absences as defined within this section.

The phrase continuously resided, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means residing in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous residence in the United States by reason of a 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 phrase brief, casual, and innocent absence, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means a departure from the United States that satisfies the following criteria:

- (1) Each such absence was of short duration and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose(s) for the absence;
- (2) The absence was not the result of an order of deportation, an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure without the institution of deportation proceedings; and
- (3) The purposes for the absence from the United States or actions while outside of the United States were not contrary to law.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate entry on or prior to February 13, 2001, continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001.

The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity until March 9, 2005, upon the applicant's re-registration during the allotted time period from July 16, 2003, until September 15, 2003. The record reveals that the applicant filed her initial application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, (now CIS), on September 10, 2002. The record reflects that the applicant attempted to submit a Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected States, on July 29, 2002. However, she had not signed the application form and it was returned to her for signature on July 31, 2002. The applicant did not return her properly signed form until September 10, 2002.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, he or she was either in a valid immigration status, had an application pending for relief from removal, was a parolee,

or was the spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant, and that he or she had filed an application for late registration within 60 days of the expiration or termination of the conditions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2).

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 CIS. 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).

On March 31, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant, in response, provided evidence of her physical presence in the United States. The applicant failed, however, to establish her eligibility for late registration.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish she was eligible for late registration and denied the application on May 6, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant states that she has submitted sufficient evidence to establish the requirements of physical presence and continuous residence in the United States. The applicant further states that she was a nonimmigrant at the time of initial residence.

The applicant stated on her application that she entered the United States illegally. Consequently, the applicant did not enter the United States as a nonimmigrant. In addition, the applicant has not provided any evidence of her having subsequently obtained nonimmigrant status. Simply going on record without supporting documentary evidence is not sufficient for purposes of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972). Under 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2), to be eligible for late registration, as a non-immigrant, the applicant must have been a non-immigrant at the time of the initial registration period. If she ceased to be a non-immigrant, under 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(g), she must have filed for TPS within 60 days after the expiration of her non-immigrant status.

The applicant has submitted sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file her application for TPS within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that she has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS will be affirmed.

An alien applying for TPS 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.