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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
[SRC 02 241 54108]

Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date: DEC 07 2004

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.

Cindy N. Gomez fo
Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

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

The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish she had: 1) entered the United States prior to February 13, 2001; 2) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; and 3) been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

An appeal that is not filed within the time allowed must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee accepted will not be refunded. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(1).

Whenever a person has the right or is required to do some act within a prescribed period after the service of a notice upon him and the notice is served by mail, three days shall be added to the prescribed period. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b).

The director's decision of denial, dated July 11, 2003, clearly advised the applicant that any appeal must be properly filed within thirty days after service of the decision. 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i). Coupled with three days for mailing, the appeal, in this case, should have been filed on or before August 13, 2003. The appeal was received at the Texas Service Center on September 16, 2003.

It is noted that the submissions of the applicant on appeal would not have overcome the findings of the director. On appeal, the applicant states that she has consistent evidence of her residence in the United States since prior to February 13, 2001. The applicant also states that she would submit a brief or additional evidence within 30 days of the date of the appeal. The record includes a set of documents submitted to the AAO on September 22, 2003; these documents include a fee receipt for the applicant's appeal, a fee receipt and re-registration application dated in September 2003, and photocopies of the applicant's employment authorization card. The record does not contain any additional evidence establishing the applicant's continuous residence or continuous physical presence in the United States, in support of the applicant's appeal.

It is also noted that the three sworn affidavits submitted in response to the director's request for additional evidence have been altered and bear correction fluid on the documents. Doubt cast on any aspect of the applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. It is incumbent upon the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1988).

As always in these proceedings, the burden of proof rests solely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361.

Based upon the applicant's failure to file a timely appeal, the appeal will be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.