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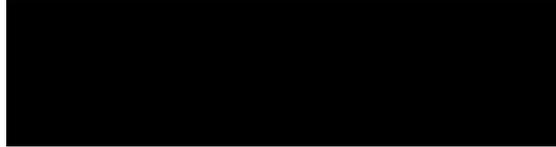


U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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DEC 14 2004



FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date:

IN RE:

Applicant:



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.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, California 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 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 continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement and additional evidence.

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, 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 § 244.3;
- (e) Is not ineligible under § 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 continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. 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 requisite time period.

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 Citizenship and Immigration Services (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).

The record indicates that the applicant entered the United States on June 20, 2002, as a nonimmigrant B-2 visitor with stay authorized to December 19, 2002. The applicant submitted the following evidence in an attempt to establish her continuous residence and physical presence in the United States:

1. a California birth certificate indicating that [REDACTED] was born to [REDACTED] a citizen of El Salvador, on December 7, 2002;
2. a Medi-Cal identification card dated June 28, 2002, indicating that the applicant was eligible for benefits;
3. a photo student identification card issued to the applicant by the [REDACTED] Adult School, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, California, with an expiration date of June 30, 2004;
4. a letter dated September 20, 2003, from [REDACTED] requesting that her daughter's TPS application be accepted as a late initial registration and stating that the applicant has been living in the United States "since March 9, 2001 through September 9, 2002 and at the time of registration she did not have the money for the required fee;"
5. an Employment Authorization Card valid from September 10, 2002 to June 6, 2002, indicating that [REDACTED] had applied for TPS; and,
6. a Form I-797 notice acknowledging receipt of a Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, from [REDACTED] on August 23, 2001.

The director noted that the applicant did not enter the United States until June 20, 2002, and denied the application on February 27, 2004, because the applicant had not established continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant states that her mother, [REDACTED] "currently registered under the TPS program and the law states that I am entitled to a late registration date." She submits a letter dated March 15, 2004, from [REDACTED] Teacher Advisor at Gardena Community Adult School in [REDACTED] California, stating that the applicant has been attending English as a Second Language (ESL) classes since September 2003 and has completed 40+ hours of attendance. The director did not deny the application because the applicant had not established her eligibility for late initial registration. The director denied the application because the applicant had not established her qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001.

The applicant indicated on the Form I-821 that she did not enter the United States until June 20, 2002. The record contains a Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, indicating that the applicant was admitted to the United States at Los Angeles, California, on June 20, 2002, as a nonimmigrant B-2 visitor with stay authorized to December 19,

2002. The applicant has submitted evidence indicating her residence in the United States since June 2002. However, since the applicant did not enter the United States until June 20, 2002, she cannot establish continuous residence in the United States during the period from February 13, 2001 to June 20, 2002.

The applicant has not established that she satisfies the residence requirement described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant cannot establish continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. Therefore, the application also may not be approved for this reason.

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.