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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
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U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services



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FILE:  Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER Date: DEC 16 2004

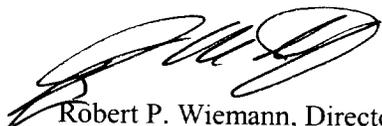
IN RE: Applicant: 

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 determined that the applicant was ineligible for TPS because he had been convicted of two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States. The director, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant submits the final court dispositions of his arrests.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an alien 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.

Pursuant to section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a), an alien shall not be eligible for temporary protected status if the Attorney General, now, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (the Secretary), finds that the alien has been convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States.

8 C.F.R. § 244.1 defines "felony" and "misdemeanor:"

*Felony* means a crime committed in the United States punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, except when the offense is defined by the State as a misdemeanor, and the sentence actually imposed is one year or less regardless of the term such alien actually served. Under this exception for purposes of section 244 of the Act, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor.

*Misdemeanor* means a crime committed in the United States, either:

- (1) Punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, or
- (2) A crime treated as a misdemeanor under the term "felony" of this section.

For purposes of this definition, any crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of five days or less shall not be considered a felony or misdemeanor.

The record reflects the following:

1. On April 8, 1997, in the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, Salinas Division, Case No. [REDACTED] the applicant, in a 4-count indictment, was convicted of Count 1, driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs, in violation of VC 23152(a), a **misdemeanor**; Count 3, driving without a license, in violation of VC 12500(a), a **misdemeanor**; and Count 4, financial responsibility with drunk driving, in violation of 16028(a)(2), an infraction. He was placed on probation for a period of 5 years, ordered to spend 4 days in jail, and pay \$2000 in fines and costs as to Counts 1, 3, and 4. Count 2 was dismissed.
2. On December 15, 1998, in the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, Salinas Division, Case No. [REDACTED] the applicant, in a 4-count indictment, was convicted of Count 1, "driving when license suspended for refusal or excessive B/A," in violation of VC 14601.5(a), a **misdemeanor**; Count 2, give false information to a peace officer, in violation of VC 31, a **misdemeanor**; and Count 4, failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility, in violation of VC 16028(a), an infraction. He was placed on probation for a period of 3 years, and ordered to spend 10 days in jail, to be served consecutive with Case No. [REDACTED] (No. 1 above), and ordered to pay \$500 in fine. Count 3 was dismissed.

The applicant, on appeal, states that he is attempting to have his DUI conviction cleared. However, even if the applicant's convictions were to be dismissed, the Board of Immigration Appeals, in *Matter of Roldan*, 22 I&N Dec. 512 (BIA 1999), held that under the statutory definition of "conviction" provided at section 101(a)(48)(A) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(48)(A), no effect is to be given in immigration proceedings to a state action which purports to expunge, dismiss, cancel, vacate, discharge, or otherwise remove a guilty plea or other record of guilt or conviction by operation of a state rehabilitative statute.

Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for TPS, pursuant to section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act, based on his four misdemeanor convictions. There is no waiver available to an alien convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States.

The record of proceeding contains a Form I-205, Warrant of Removal/Deportation, issued on July 14, 1998, in San Francisco, California, based on the final order of removal issued by an immigration judge on July 14, 1998.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he 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. Accordingly, the appeal will be dismissed.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.