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

PUBLIC COPY

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FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date:

DEC 16 2012

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 a felony committed in the United States. The director, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant acknowledges his wrongdoing in 1988 and states that it was over 15 years ago, and he believes he had made restitution. He requests reconsideration because he has a wife and three children to support.

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.

Section 212(a)(2) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(2), provides that aliens inadmissible and ineligible to receive visas and ineligible to be admitted to the United States include:

- (A)(i) Any alien convicted of, or who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of ...
 - (I) a crime involving moral turpitude (other than a purely political offense) or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such a crime, or...

The record reflects the following:

1. On February 4, 1988, in the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, Case No. [REDACTED] the applicant was convicted of conspiracy to pass fraudulent checks, in violation of § 182 PC, a felony. He was placed on probation for a period of 3 years.
2. On July 30, 2000, in the Municipal Court of Los Angeles, California, Case No. [REDACTED] the applicant was charged with Count 1, violence used against former spouse, in violation of § 242-243(e), a misdemeanor; and Count 2, willful cruelty to child, in violation of § 273a(b), a misdemeanor. On July 31, 2000, the applicant was convicted of Count 1. He was placed on probation for a period of 36 months with condition that he pay a total of \$388 in fines, costs, and restitution. Count 2 was dismissed.
3. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) report, contained in the record of proceeding, reflects that on July 28, 1984, in San Fernando, California, the applicant was arrested and charged with forgery,

in violation of § 470 PC, a misdemeanor. The FBI report shows that the applicant was subsequently convicted of the crime, and he was sentenced to 120 days in prison and placed on probation for a period of 36 months. The actual court disposition of this arrest, however, is not contained in the record.

4. On November 29, 1984, in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. Case No. [REDACTED] the applicant was arrested and charged with auto theft, in violation of § 10851 VC, a felony. On November 30, 1984, the court dismissed the case.
5. The FBI report reflects that on August 10, 2002, in Santa Ana, California, the applicant was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, drug with alcohol. The final court disposition of this arrest is not contained in the record.

Any crime involving fraud is a crime involving moral turpitude. *Burr v. INS*, 350 F.2d 87, 91 (9th Cir. 1965), cert. denied, 383 U.S. 915 (1966). Therefore, passing fraudulent checks is a crime involving moral turpitude (No. 1 above). *Matter of Ohnhauser*, 10 I&N Dec. 501 (BIA 1964) (held that this crime involves moral turpitude because one of its essential elements is intent to defraud). Furthermore, forgery is a crime involving moral turpitude (No. 3 above). *Matter of Seda*, 17 I&N Dec. 550 (BIA 1980); *Matter of Jimenez*, 14 I&N Dec. 442 (BIA 1973); however, the final disposition of this arrest is not contained in the record. The applicant, however, is inadmissible to the United States, pursuant to section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Act, based on his conviction of a felony crime involving moral turpitude (No. 1 above).

Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for TPS based on his record of one felony conviction pursuant to section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act, and because he is inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Act. There is no waiver available to an alien found inadmissible under this section. See 8 C.F.R. § 244.3(c)(1). Nor is there a waiver available for convictions of a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States.

The FBI report shows that the applicant was placed in removal proceedings in Los Angeles, California, on February 19, 1992. The applicant was subsequently deported from the United States to Guatemala on March 11, 1992 (file number [REDACTED]).

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.