



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



FILE:



Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: 11 17 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

identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

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DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Honduras 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 he was eligible for late registration. The director also found the applicant failed to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods.

On appeal, the applicant submits a letter.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant is eligible for TPS 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 Hondurans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that they have been continuously physically present since January 5, 1999. The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999, through August 20, 1999. The record reveals that the applicant filed his initial Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, with

the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on June 3, 2002.¹

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 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 must 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).

In support of his initial TPS application, the applicant submitted photocopies of his Honduran birth certificate, with English translation, and pages from his Honduran passport, issued in Honduras on August 24, 1999.

On May 29, 2002, and August 20, 2002, the director requested the applicant to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration. The applicant was also requested to submit evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. In response, the applicant submitted photocopies of the following documentation:

1. His Honduran birth certificate, with English translation;
2. Pages from his Honduran passport, issued in Honduras on August 24, 1999;
3. An earnings statement from [REDACTED] Bronx, New York. The applicant's name and the payment date (August 16, 1999) are hand-written on the statement;
4. An undated MoneyGram MoneySaver letter to the applicant in Spanish, with no English translation;
5. A MoneySaver application form, containing a hand-written date of August 28, 1999;
6. Two MoneyGram application forms, containing illegible hand-written dates; and,
7. A birth certificate for the applicant's child, [REDACTED] born in the United States on January 22, 2002.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his eligibility for TPS and denied the application on June 25, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant states that he previously submitted evidence of his eligibility for TPS, and requests that his case be reviewed.

¹ It appears that the applicant had previously attempted to file a TPS application, in connection with a Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, on June 15, 2000, and May 22, 2002. However, the applications were returned to the applicant and were not accepted for processing until June 3, 2002.

The applicant claims to have lived in the United States since April 10, 1998. However, his Honduran passport was issued in Honduras on August 24, 1999. This discrepancy calls into question in the applicant's ability to document the requirements under the statute and regulations. Doubt cast on any aspect of the evidence as submitted may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the visa petition. Further, it is incumbent on the petitioner to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence; any 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. (Comm. 1988).

It is concluded that the applicant has failed to overcome the grounds of denial cited by the director. The record confirms that the applicant filed his TPS application after the initial registration period had expired. The applicant has submitted evidence in an attempt to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his Form I-821 within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that he has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Furthermore, the documentation submitted by the applicant does not include satisfactory evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

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.