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20 Mass. Ave. N.W., Rm. A3042  
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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**DEC 29 2004**

FILE:

Office: Vermont 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:

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, Vermont 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 applying for 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 that he is a national of El Salvador. The director also denied the application because the applicant had failed to establish he was eligible for late registration, and to establish his qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods.

On appeal, counsel, on behalf of the applicant, asserts the applicant's claim of eligibility for TPS and submits evidence in support of his claim.

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 designated by the Attorney General 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 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.
- (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 record reveals that the applicant filed his application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on November 22, 2002.

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 shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by 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).

On March 18, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence to establish his eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). He was also requested to submit evidence to establish that he is a national of El Salvador. Further, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence in the United States as of February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing his application.

In response, counsel, on behalf of the applicant, submitted copies of the applicant's birth certificate along with an English translation, copies of the biographical pages of the applicant's passport issued on March 22, 2001 in El Salvador, and copies of the applicant's national identification card issued on March 1, 2001 in El Salvador. In addition, counsel submitted some evidence in an attempt to establish the applicant's continuous physical presence and continuous residence in the United States. However, counsel did not submit any evidence to establish the applicant's eligibility for late registration.

On June 24, 2003, the director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish his continuous residence in the United States, and his continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods for El Salvador TPS. Further, the director denied the application because the applicant failed to provide evidence to establish that he is a national of El Salvador, and his eligibility for TPS late registration.

On appeal, counsel asserts that the evidence provided previously was not given the proper weight and consideration, and the evidence was clear and convincing in support of the application. Counsel also provides, on appeal, copies of the applicant's birth certificate along with an English translation, and additional evidence in an attempt to establish the applicant's continuous physical presence and continuous residence in the United States. A review of the evidence in the record establishes that the applicant is a national of El Salvador; therefore, he has overcome this portion of the director's decision. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his Application for Temporary Protected Status 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). Consequently, the director's decision that the applicant failed to establish eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

Further, the applicant stated on the Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, that he did not enter the United States until November 22, 2001, at Dallas, Texas, as a visitor. According to CIS' systems, the applicant had last entered the United States as a B-2 visitor on November 22, 2001, at Washington, D.C. Therefore, he could not have met the requirements that he had continuously resided in the United States since

February 13, 2001, and had been continuously physically present since March 9, 2001. He has, thereby, failed to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Therefore, the application will also be denied for these reasons.

An alien applying for TPS 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.