



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

0011



FILE: [REDACTED] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: **OCT 26 2004**

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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.

  
for Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
disclosure of information

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

The applicant is a 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 acting director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish her continuous residence and her continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods.

On appeal, the applicant provides a letter and one affidavit.

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 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.
- (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.

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 in the United States since January 5, 1999. On May 11, 2000, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until July 5, 2001. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted with the latest extension valid until January 5, 2005, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The issues raised by the acting director to be addressed in this proceeding are whether the applicant has established her continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. The applicant must also have been in the United States during the requisite timeframe and otherwise satisfy the requirements under 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, as stated above.

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.

In a notice of intent to deny, dated June 30, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998 and her continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. The applicant failed to respond to the notice of intent to deny. Consequently, the acting director denied the application on October 17, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant, in a letter dated October 29, 2003, states that she had "previously submitted all proof." The applicant provides a letter, dated October 24, 2003, from Edgar Simon Abonia, MD, which certifies that the applicant "is a patient at this office since November 10, 1998 to the present."

The applicant's statement on appeal is not sufficient to establish that she has been continuously residing and has been continuously physically present in the United States during the required timeframes. In addition, the doctor's letter, without supporting documentary evidence, is not sufficient for the purpose of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *See Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972). The applicant has failed to establish that she has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). For these reasons, the application may not be approved. Consequently, the acting director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the acting director, the applicant has not established her eligibility for late registration. Therefore, the application must also be denied for this reason.

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.