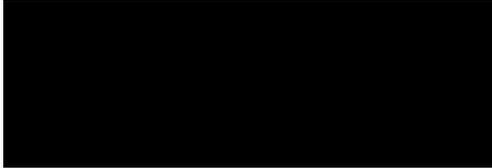




U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



FILE: [REDACTED] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date:

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

for 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 had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that he had been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

An appeal was filed on May 15, 2003, by [REDACTED] BSPLS/Paralegal/Ins. Broker. However, the U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Recognition and Accreditation Roster does not list [REDACTED] as an accredited representative, nor has [REDACTED] established that she meets the criteria for representation under 8 C.F. R. § 292. Consequently, as the applicant has signed both the application and the Form, I-290B, Notice of Appeal to the Administrative Appeals Unit (AAU), the applicant will be considered self-represented.

On appeal, the applicant provides additional documentation.

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.

The issues raised by the director that will be addressed in this proceeding are whether the applicant has been continuously residing in the United States since February 13, 2001, and has been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

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 May 21, 2001.

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 December 23, 2002, the applicant was requested to submit evidence to establish his continuous residence and his continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite timeframes. In response, the applicant submitted: an affidavit from his father stating that the applicant lives with both him and his wife; a money order from "gigante express," dated March 18, 2001; a rent receipt in the applicant's name for "December 31 19- to January 2001," a rent receipt in the applicant's name for January 31 2001 to February 28 2001; and, an affidavit from [REDACTED] stating that he has known the applicant since November 2000, and that the applicant lives with his father. It is noted that as the applicant's father's affidavit indicates that the applicant resides with him and his wife, and that he provides food, clothing and shelter. It has not been explained as to why the applicant would have rent receipts.

The director determined that the evidence submitted was not sufficient to establish the applicant's continuous residence and his continuous physical presence in the United States during the required timeframes. The director denied the application on April 18, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant provides: an affidavit from [REDACTED] stating that he is a friend of the applicant's and has known him since November 2000; an affidavit from [REDACTED] stating that she is a childhood friend of the applicant's, and that he has been living in the United States continuously since "11/2000;" and, a photocopy of an auto repair order from [REDACTED] dated "01-05-02."

The additional evidence submitted on appeal is not sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the applicant has been continuously residing in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that he has been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. In addition, the affidavits, without supporting documentary evidence, are 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, therefore, failed to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS on these grounds 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.