



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

M

[Redacted]

FILE: [Redacted]

Office: Texas 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:

[Redacted]

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

IDENTITY INFO DELETED TO
PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The case will be remanded for further consideration and action.

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 denied the application after determining that the applicant had abandoned his application by failing to respond to a request for evidence.

If all requested initial evidence and requested additional evidence is not submitted by the required date, the application or petition shall be considered abandoned and, accordingly, shall be denied. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(13). A denial due to abandonment may not be appealed, but an applicant or petitioner may file a motion to reopen. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(15).

The record reveals that the applicant filed his application on April 16, 2001. On April 17, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit additional evidence establishing his qualifying physical presence and residence in the United States. The applicant was also requested to submit a copy of his photo identification. The record does not contain a response from the applicant; therefore, the director concluded that the applicant had abandoned his application and denied the application on July 21, 2003. The director advised the applicant that, while the decision could not be appealed, the applicant could file a motion to reopen within 30 days.

Counsel, on behalf of the applicant, responded to the director's decision on August 11, 2003. The applicant requested that his TPS application be reopened. The applicant also stated that he had moved at the end of March 2003, and he did not receive the request for additional evidence until July 26, 2003, along with the director's notice of denial dated July 21, 2003.

The director advised the applicant that, while the decision could not be appealed, the applicant could file a motion to reopen. Counsel, on behalf of the applicant, responded to the director's decision; however, the director erroneously accepted counsel's response as an appeal instead of a motion to reopen and forwarded the file to the AAO. As the director's decision was based on abandonment, the AAO has no jurisdiction over this case. Therefore, the case will be remanded and the director shall consider counsel's response as a motion to reopen.

As always in these proceedings, the burden of proof rests solely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361.

ORDER: The case is remanded to the director for further action consistent with the above and entry of a decision.