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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. A3042  
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services



M2

FILE:



Office: Vermont Service Center

Date: 05 12 2015

[EAC 02 013 51344]

IN RE:

Applicant:

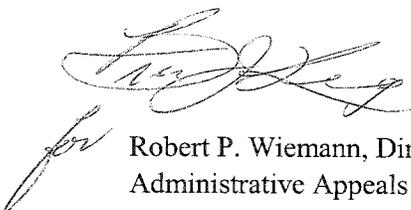


APPLICATION: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254

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.

  
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 stated to be 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 because the applicant failed to establish his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001, to the date of filing his application.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement regarding his eligibility for TPS.

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.

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. On July 9, 2002, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until September 9, 2003. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity until September 9, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

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 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).

On June 23, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence to establish 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. On August 13, 2003, the director denied the application because he determined the record did not contain a response from the applicant, and thus, the grounds for denial had not been overcome.

The applicant filed an appeal which was received by the VSC on October 2, 2003. The applicant's first attempt at filing his appeal was rejected because the applicant did not sign the appeal form. The applicant resent his appeal to the director; however, the appeal was untimely filed and therefore, was rejected by the director as improperly filed. The director treated the appeal as a motion to reopen, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(1)(v)(B)(2), and rendered a decision on the merits of the case. After a complete review of the record of proceedings, including the motion, the director determined that the applicant had failed to establish his eligibility for TPS. The director, therefore, affirmed his previous decision and denied the application on March 19, 2004.

On April 14, 2004, the applicant filed an appeal to the director's March 19, 2004 decision, which is now before the AAO. On appeal, the applicant states that he requests an appeal of his case and that he encloses evidence with his appeal. However, a review of the record of proceedings reflects that the applicant did not submit any additional evidence along with his appeal. Therefore, the record will be considered complete.

A review of the record reflects that the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. 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 will be affirmed.

8 C.F.R. § 244.9, states that each application for TPS must be accompanied by evidence of the applicant's identity and nationality.

Sec. 244.9 Evidence.

(a) *Documentation.* Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by the Service. The Service may require proof of unsuccessful efforts to obtain documents claimed to be unavailable. If any required document is unavailable, an affidavit or other credible evidence may be submitted.

(1) *Evidence of identity and nationality.* Each application must be accompanied by evidence of the applicant's identity and nationality, if available. If these documents are unavailable, the applicant shall file an affidavit showing proof of unsuccessful efforts to obtain such identity documents, explaining why the consular process is unavailable, and affirming that he or she is a national of the designated foreign state. A personal interview before an immigration officer shall be required for each applicant who fails to provide documentary proof of identity or

nationality. During this interview, the applicant may present any secondary evidence that he or she feels would be helpful in showing nationality. Acceptable evidence in descending order of preference may consist of: (Amended 11/16/98; 63 FR 63593)

- (i) Passport;
- (ii) Birth certificate accompanied by photo identification; and/or
- (iii) Any national identity document from the alien's country of origin bearing photo and/or fingerprint.

Beyond the decision of the director, it also is noted that the applicant has provided insufficient evidence to establish that he is a national or citizen of El Salvador. The applicant has provided a copy of his birth certificate along with an English translation as evidence of his identity; however, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(a)(1), the applicant must also provide photo identification. Therefore, the application will also be denied for this reason.

It is also noted that the applicant was ordered removed from the United States by an immigration judge in New York, New York on June 29, 1999, under file [REDACTED]

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.