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U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED]
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Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **AUG 10 2005**

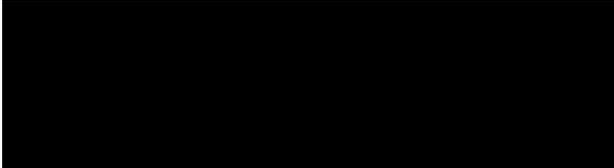
IN RE: Applicant:

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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

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The initial application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was denied on January 12, 2001, by the District Director, New York, New York. The applicant re-filed for TPS on June 19, 2003. On October 8, 2003, the application was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a citizen of Honduras who is seeking 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 he was eligible for late registration.

On appeal, counsel provides additional documentation.

As stated in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1. "register" means "to properly file, with the director, a completed application, with proper fee, for Temporary Protected Status during the registration period designated under section 244(b) of the Act."

The record reveals that the applicant did file an initial application for TPS during the initial registration period. The director denied that application on January 12, 2001, for failure to provide a disposition of arrest within the allotted time.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status on June 19, 2003. The director denied this second application because it was filed outside of the initial registration period, and the applicant had failed to establish his eligibility for filing under the provisions of late registration.

The applicant's initial Form I-821 was properly filed. That initial application was denied by the director on January 12, 2001. Any Form I-821 application subsequently submitted by the same applicant after an initial application is filed and a decision rendered must be considered as either a request for annual registration or as a new filing for TPS benefits.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821 on June 19, 2003. Since the initial application was denied on January 12, 2001, the subsequent application cannot be considered as a re-registration. Therefore, this application can only be considered as late registration.

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 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.

The issue raised by the director to be addressed in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

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 since January 5, 1999. The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999. The record reveals that the applicant filed this initial application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on June 19, 2003.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, he was either in a valid immigration status, had an application pending for relief from removal, was a parolee, or was the spouse/child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant, and he 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).

The record of proceedings confirms that the applicant filed this TPS application after the initial registration period had closed. In a notice of intent to deny, dated August 1, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit evidence of his continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. The applicant was further requested to submit evidence of his nationality. The director found that the applicant "included evidence of your Honduran nationality, your established residence, and your continuous physical presence in the United States. However, you did not provide evidence that you are eligible for TPS Late Initial Registration." The director denied the application on October 8, 2003.

On appeal, counsel provides copies of arrests dispositions.

The documentation submitted on appeal does not demonstrate the applicant's eligibility for late registration. Consequently, the applicant has not established that he has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, it is noted that the applicant was arrested and convicted of two or more misdemeanors and one felony. The applicant is ineligible for TPS due to his record of at least two misdemeanor convictions and one felony. 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a). 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.