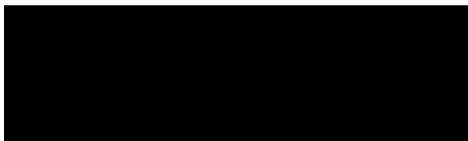


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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 03 077 52087]

OFFICE: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

DATE: AUG 15 2005

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.

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 claims 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 had failed to establish that he had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and had been continuously physically present from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing his application.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an alien 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 § 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 condition described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

The term *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 term *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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that they have been continuously physically present 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 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).

The record shows that the applicant filed his initial application on January 2, 2003. Included with the application are affidavits from the pastor of Pentecostal Church of God and from [REDACTED]. Because the evidence furnished was insufficient to establish eligibility for TPS, the applicant was requested on October 7, 2003, to submit additional evidence to establish continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing his application. The applicant failed to respond. The director, therefore, denied the application on March 17, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he has never abandoned his TPS case, he has never committed any crimes, he is responding on a timely manner, and that he is still living at the same address.

The affidavit from [REDACTED] Pastor of Pentecostal Church of God, has little evidentiary weight or probative value as it does not provide basic information that is expressly required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(v). Specifically, the pastor does not explain the origin of the information to which he attests, and how he knows the applicant. Additionally, the pastor failed to show inclusive dates of the applicant's membership at the church, and the address where the applicant resided during the membership period.

Ms. [REDACTED] indicates on her affidavit that she has been providing room and board for the applicant and that the applicant has been residing at her address since June 2000. Regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2) do not expressly provide that personal affidavits on an applicant's behalf are sufficient to establish the applicant's

qualifying continuous residence or continuous physical presence in the United States. Moreover, the affidavits provided by the applicant are not supported by any other corroborative evidence. The applicant claimed to have lived in the United States since June 2000. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some other type of contemporaneous evidence to support his claim; however, no such evidence has been provided.

Accordingly, the applicant has failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish that he has met the criteria for continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001, as described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, it is noted that the applicant filed his TPS application on January 2, 2003, after the initial registration period for El Salvadorans (from March 9, 2001 to September 9, 2002) had closed. There is no evidence in the record that the applicant fell within the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) (listed above). Additionally, the record does not contain a picture identification of the applicant to establish his identity, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(1). Therefore, the appeal must also be dismissed for these reasons.

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.