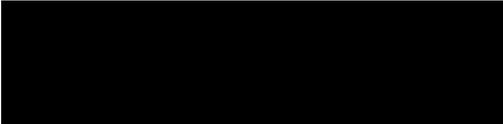




U.S. Citizenship  
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Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]  
[SRC 02 214 54220]

Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER

Date: AUG 29 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:



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, Texas 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 Nicaragua 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 for TPS because the applicant failed to establish he was eligible for late registration.

On appeal, counsel states that instead of providing evidence that he had an application for adjustment of status pending, the applicant provided proof of physical presence from 1996 through the present. Counsel further states the applicant is a 21-year-old native of Nicaragua who entered the United States in July of 1996. Counsel submits Forms I-797C showing the applicant submitted a Form I-485 Application to Adjust to Permanent Resident Status on February 4, 1999 and that the I-485 was transferred from the Texas Service Center to the Miami District Office on May 21, 1999. Counsel also submits a call-in notice dated December 20, 1999 requesting that the applicant report to the Miami District Office for his I-485 interview along with a letter from the District Director in Miami dated January 10, 2000 denying his application for adjustment of status because he failed to appear for his scheduled interview. Counsel argues that because the applicant's adjustment of status application was pending until January 10, 2000, he qualifies for late registration.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations at 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 TPS only if such alien establishes that he or she:

- (a) Is a national of a 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 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.
- (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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to Nicaraguans 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 Nicaraguans was from January 5, 1999, through August 20, 1999. The record shows that the applicant filed his application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on June 28, 2002.

To qualify for late registration, an applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, he or she fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

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 her burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

On November 10, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration as set forth in the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant, in response, provided documentation relating to his residence and physical presence in this country. However, he did not submit any evidence to establish that he was eligible for late initial registration.

The record shows that the applicant had a pending Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, during the initial registration period. A pending Form I-485 application would normally cause an applicant to be eligible for late registration. However, CIS regulations also require a late registration to be filed within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of conditions that made the applicant eligible for late registration. 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(g). In this case, the applicant's Form I-485 application was denied on January 10, 2000. Therefore, the applicant's 60-day period during which he must

have applied to be eligible for late registration expired on March 10, 2000. The applicant filed his TPS application on June 28, 2002, more than two years later.

On appeal, the applicant submitted evidence in an attempt to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his Application for Temporary Protected Status within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that he has met any of the criteria for late registration described in the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS is affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, an alien shall not be eligible for TPS if CIS finds that the alien was firmly resettled in another country prior to arriving in the United States. Sections 244(c)(2)(B)(ii) and 208(b)(2)(A)(vi) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act).

As defined in 8 C.F.R. § 208.15, an alien is considered to be firmly resettled if, prior to arrival in the United States, he or she entered into another country with, or while in that country received an offer of permanent resident status, citizenship, or some other type of permanent resettlement unless he or she establishes:

(a) That his or her entry into that country was a necessary consequence of his or her flight from persecution, that he or she remained in that country only as long as was necessary to arrange onward travel, and that he or she did not establish significant ties in that country; or

(b) That the conditions of his or her residence in that country were so substantially and consciously restricted by the authority of the country of refuge that he or she was not in fact resettled. In making his or her determination, the asylum officer or immigration judge shall consider the conditions under which other residents of the country live; the type of housing, whether permanent or temporary, made available to the refugee; the types and extent of employment available to the refugee; and the extent to which the refugee received permission to hold property and to enjoy other rights and privileges, such as travel documentation that includes a right of entry or reentry, education, public relief, or naturalization, ordinarily available to others resident in the country.

On the applicant's Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, he states that he arrived in this country using his Canadian passport and that his country of citizenship is "Nicaraguan and Canadian." Further, the record contains a copy of the applicant's certificate of Canadian citizenship. It is determined that the applicant not only received an offer of Canadian citizenship but also obtained that status from the Government of Canada. Therefore, it is determined that the applicant was firmly resettled in another country before arriving in the United States and is ineligible for TPS for this additional 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.