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U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 03 077 52351]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: III 25 2005

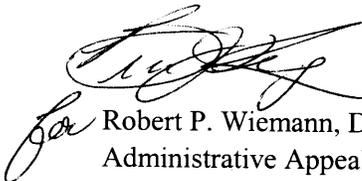
IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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. A motion to reopen, filed by the applicant, was granted by the director and he again denied the application. The applicant appealed the director's decision on the motion, and it is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

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.

On motion, he does not understand why the evidence he submitted did not meet INS criteria.

On appeal, the applicant requests that the decision be reconsidered because he is a Salvadoran citizen and entered the United States before February 13, 2001 and established residence in Maryland since or before March 9, 2001. The applicant states that he actually entered the United States on December 1, 2000.

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 as 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.

The term *continuously physically present*, as used in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. Any departure, not authorized by the Service, including any brief, casual, and innocent departure, shall be deemed to break an alien's continuous physical presence.

The term *continuously resided* as used in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1 means residing in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations and since December 30, 1998. 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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate entry on or prior to February 13, 2001, 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. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with the latest granted 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 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 reveals that the applicant filed his application on October 7, 2002. On April 1, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit additional evidence establishing that he had reregistered for TPS by filing a new TPS application between September 9, 2002 and November 12, 2002. The record does not contain a response from the applicant; therefore, the director concluded that the applicant had abandoned his application and issued a Notice of Denial on June 3, 2003. The director advised the applicant that, while the decision could not be appealed, the applicant could file a motion to reopen.

In compliance with the director's instructions, the applicant submitted a motion to reopen his case. According to the applicant, he does not understand why the evidence he submitted did not meet INS criteria. The applicant states that he will forward additional documents to establish that he meets the criteria for TPS benefits and work authorization. The director determined that the grounds for denial had not been overcome and affirmed the previous decision. The director also determined that the applicant was ineligible for TPS because he entered the United States on December 1, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant requests that the decision be reconsidered because he is a Salvadoran citizen and entered the United States before February 13, 2001 and established residence in Maryland since or before March 9, 2001. According to the applicant, he actually entered the United States on December 1, 2001, but the notary public that assisted him erroneously marked his date of entry as December 1, 2001. The applicant has not provided any evidence to support his claim.

The applicant is not eligible for TPS as an El Salvadoran because he arrived in the United States subsequent to the eligibility period. Therefore, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, it also is noted that the applicant has provided insufficient evidence to establish his eligibility for late registration. Therefore, the application must be denied on this basis as well.

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.