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U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE: [REDACTED]  
[EAC 02 204 53566]

Office: Vermont Service Center

Date: JUN 19 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

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 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 he had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant submits evidence in support of 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 April 8, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence in the United States as of February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing his application. In response, the applicant submitted some evidence in an attempt to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The director, however, determined that the applicant failed to establish he had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001. Therefore, the director denied the application on January 21, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant provides the following in support of his application: a letter dated February 4, 2003, from Ms. [REDACTED] Office Manager of Asesoria Centro Americana, who stated that the applicant has been a client of her office since January 7, 2001; an undated and unsigned copy of a residential lease agreement; a copy of the applicant's Maryland State Provisional License issued on April 5, 2003; a copy of the applicant's check card valid from March 2001 through March 2004; copies of hand-written receipts from Robert Express bearing Invoice Numbers of "01/23/01" and "02/26/01"; a copy of a money transfer receipt dated March 29, 2001, from Western Union; copies of checks from [REDACTED] dated February 23, 2001 and March 9, 2001; copies of money transfer receipts dated May 16, 2002, November 12, 2002, and June 29, 2003, from Bancomercio; copies of the applicant's personal checks dated October 10, 2001, October 22, 2001, November 25, 2002, February 25, 2003; copies of the applicant's Statement of Account dated November 19, 2002 and January 21, 2004, from Chevy Chase Bank; a copy of the applicant's Service Plan from RadioShack reflecting a contract starting date of September 8, 2003; a copy of the applicant's Verizon telephone billing statement dated September 8, 2003; a copy of the applicant's Comcast billing statement dated December 6, 2003; a copy of a letter dated January 30, 2004, from Mr. [REDACTED] Carpentry, who stated that the applicant has worked for him since January 2001; a copy of the applicant's Sprint PCS billing statement dated April 7, 2003; and a copy of the applicant's Driver Education Program Completion Certificate dated March 26, 2003.

The employment letter from Mr. [REDACTED] 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)(i). Specifically, Mr. [REDACTED] does not provide the address where the applicant resided during the period of his employment. According to Mr. [REDACTED] the applicant has been employed since January 2001; however, the applicant has not provided any evidence in support of his employment since that time with the exception of two checks dated February 23, 2001 and March 9, 2001. However, these checks post-date the beginning of the requisite time periods from continuous residence and were not deposited until March 9, 2001. The remaining evidence submitted on appeal also post-dates the beginning of the requisite time period for continuous residence in the United States as well. The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b). It is determined that the documentation submitted by the applicant is not sufficient to establish that he satisfies the continuous residence requirement described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

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.