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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
[SRC 03 078 53846]

Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date: JUN 27 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

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 (AAO) on appeal. The case will be remanded for further consideration and action.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Honduras 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 her application by failing to respond to a request for evidence.

If all requested initial evidence and requested additional evidence is not submitted by the required date, the application or petition shall be considered abandoned and, accordingly, shall be denied. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(13). A denial due to abandonment may not be appealed, but an applicant or petitioner may file a motion to reopen. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(15).

The record reveals that the applicant filed her TPS application on January 21, 2003. It is noted that the applicant checked the box indicating that this was an application for annual re-registration. The record, however, does not contain any evidence establishing that the applicant had filed a previous application for TPS. The applicant also did not provide any evidence that she had registered for TPS earlier. Therefore, this must be considered as an initial application for TPS.

On March 20, 2003, and again in multiple attempted mailings, the applicant was requested to submit additional evidence establishing her eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit evidence establishing her continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. In addition, the applicant was requested to submit photo identification or a national identity document bearing a photograph and/or fingerprint. The record does not contain a response from the applicant; therefore, the director concluded that the applicant had abandoned her application and denied the application on April 23, 2003.

The director advised the applicant that, while the decision could not be appealed, the applicant could file a motion to reopen within 30 days. The applicant responded to the director's decision; however, the director erroneously accepted the applicant's response as an appeal instead of a motion to reopen and forwarded the file to the AAO. As the director's decision was based on abandonment, the AAO has no jurisdiction over this case. Therefore, the case will be remanded and the director shall consider the applicant's response as a motion to reopen.

It is noted that the applicant's response was received outside of the allotted timeframe for submitting a timely motion to reopen, and that no additional evidence was submitted with the motion.

As always in these proceedings, the burden of proof rests solely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361.

ORDER: The case is remanded to the director for further action consistent with the above.