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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

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[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: MAY 10 2005
[EAC 03 073 52296]

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 (AAO) 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 that she was eligible for late registration.

On appeal, the applicant submits a brief statement and additional documentation.

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 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.

(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 El Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001. The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed her initial Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on September 28, 2002.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, he or she was either in a valid immigration status, had an application pending for relief from removal, was a parolee, or was the spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant, and had filed an application for late registration within 60 days of the expiration or termination of the conditions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2).

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).

On March 26, 2003, the director requested the applicant to submit 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 her marriage certificate, and evidence to establish her continuous physical presence in the United States from February 13, 2001, to the date of filing her TPS application. The record reflects that the applicant failed to respond to the director's request.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish that she was eligible for late registration and denied the application on July 10, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant submits a photocopy of her marriage certificate, with no English translation.[1] The applicant also submits photocopies of earnings statements, dated October and November 2001, noting her social security number

[1] Any document containing a foreign language submitted to CIS must be accompanied by a full English language translation that the translator has certified as complete and accurate, and by the translator's certification that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English. 8 C.F.R § 103.2(b)(3). As the applicant has failed to comply with this requirement with regard to her marriage certificate, it will not be considered in the rendering of this decision.

There are discrepancies encountered in the documentation presented by the applicant. On her initial Form I-821, the applicant indicated that she had never used a social security number. However, the documentation submitted on appeal indicates that the applicant used a social security number prior to the submission of her Form I-821.

Furthermore, on her Form I-821, the applicant indicated that she had entered the United States in January 2000. However, a review of the alien registration file relating to the applicant's alleged husband, indicates that when he filed his application for TPS in November 14, 2001, and an application for annual re-registration in November 2002, he claimed that the applicant was residing in El Salvador.

The above-noted discrepancies have not been explained and call into question the applicant's ability to document the requirements under the statute and regulations. Doubt cast on any aspect of the evidence as submitted may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the visa petition. Further, it is incumbent on the petitioner to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence; any attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. 582. (Comm. 1988).

The record confirms that the applicant filed her initial application for TPS after the initial registration period had expired. The applicant has submitted documentation in an attempt to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States; however, the evidence submitted is not credible and does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file her Form I-821 within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted <u>any</u> evidence to establish that she has met <u>any</u> of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

It is noted that, beyond the decision of the director, the applicant has also failed to submit sufficient credible evidence to establish her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. Therefore, the application may also not be approved for this reason.

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.