



U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE:



Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: NOV 16 2005

[EAC 04 100 50754]

IN RE:

Applicant:



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 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 she was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. Finally, the director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish her identity and nationality.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement and additional evidence.

As stated in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, "register" means "to properly file, with the director, a completed application, with proper fee, for Temporary Protected Status during the registration period designated under section 244(b) of the Act."

The record reveals that the applicant did file an initial application for TPS during the initial registration period. That application was denied on April 8, 2003, because the applicant failed to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. The applicant did not file either a motion or an appeal during the requisite timeframe.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on February 18, 2004. The director denied this second application because it was filed outside of the initial registration period and because the applicant had failed to establish her eligibility for filing under the provisions of late registration. The director also denied the application because the applicant failed to establish her identity and nationality and her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. Since the applicant did properly file an application during the initial registration period, the director erred in her explanation of the basis for denial. While the director found the applicant ineligible for TPS in part because she had failed to establish eligibility for late registration, the director's decision did not sufficiently explain the entire basis for denial.

The applicant's initial Form I-821 was properly filed on March 4, 2002. That initial application was denied by the director on April 8, 2003. Any Form I-821 application subsequently submitted by the same applicant after an initial application is filed and a decision rendered, must be considered as either a request for annual registration or as a new filing for TPS benefits.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821 on February 18, 2004. Since the initial application was denied on April 8, 2003, the subsequent application cannot be considered as a re-registration. Therefore, this application can only be considered as a late registration.

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 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 § 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.
- (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.

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.

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. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest granted until September 9, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period. The record reveals that the applicant filed her current Form I-821 with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on February 18, 2004.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that 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 her own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

The first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established her identity and nationality.

Each application must be accompanied by evidence of the applicant's identity and nationality. Acceptable evidence in descending order of preference may consist of the alien's passport, a birth certificate accompanied by photo identification, and/or any national identity document from the alien's country of origin bearing photo and/or fingerprint. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(1).

The applicant initially submitted a photocopy of her Salvadoran birth certificate with English translation, but she did not provide an official Salvadoran photo identification document.

On June 16, 2004, the applicant was requested to submit proof of identity and nationality, evidence to establish her eligibility for late registration, and evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. The record does not contain a response from the applicant.

The director concluded the applicant had failed to establish her identity and nationality and denied the application on September 14, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant submits a photocopy of the biographic page of her Salvadoran passport and a photocopy of her Salvadoran electoral card.

The applicant has submitted sufficient evidence to establish her identity and nationality, and this ground for denial of the application has been overcome.

The second issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The record of proceedings confirms that the applicant filed her current TPS application after the initial registration period had closed. To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, she fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

As stated previously, on June 16, 2004, the applicant was requested 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 evidence establishing her identity and nationality and evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The record does not contain a response from the applicant.

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

On appeal, the applicant states. “[f]irst of all, I did not file a late registration. I have been applying for TPS since approximately in November 2001.”

As previously explained, the applicant did file a prior Form I-821 during the initial registration period, but that application was denied on April 8, 2003. Therefore, the current application can only be considered as a late initial registration.

The applicant submits evidence in an attempt to establish her qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file her Form I-821, 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 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's conclusion that the applicant had failed to establish her eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

The third issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

The applicant claimed on her prior Form I-821 that she first entered the United States on November 7, 2001. She submitted the following evidence:

1. a letter dated July 19, 2002, from [REDACTED] stating she has known the applicant since November 2001 and she and the applicant are co-workers;
2. a letter dated July 19, 2002, from [REDACTED] stating he has known the applicant since November 2001.

As stated above, the applicant was requested on June 16, 2004, to submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The record does not contain a response from the applicant.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish her eligibility for TPS and denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant submits the following:

3. an affidavit dated September 20, 2004, from [REDACTED] stating he has known the applicant since "approximately January 2001;"
4. an affidavit dated September 20, 2004, from [REDACTED] stating that she has known the applicant since "approximately January 2001; I met her through a friend;"
5. an affidavit dated September 20, 2004, from [REDACTED] stating that he has known the applicant since "approximately January 2001."

The applicant indicated on her prior Form I-821 that she first entered the United States in November 2001. She claims on the current Form I-821 that she first entered the United States on January 7, 2001. This applicant has not provided any explanation for this discrepancy in her claimed date of entry into the United States. Additionally [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stated in their first affidavits dated July 19, 2002, that they had known the applicant since November 2001; they now state in their affidavits submitted on appeal that they have known the applicant since January 2001. The applicant has not provided any explanation for this discrepancy.

Doubt cast on any aspect of the applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. Further, it is incumbent on the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and 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 applicant has not submitted sufficient credible evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. She has, therefore, failed to establish that she has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS on these grounds will also be affirmed.

The application will be denied for the above stated reasons, with each considered as an independent and alternative basis for denial. 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.