



U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED]
[WAC 01 183 57011]

OFFICE: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

DATE: NOV 21 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:



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
for Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, California 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 had been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States.

On appeal, counsel submits a statement and additional evidence.

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 TPS only if such alien establishes that he or she:

- (a) Is a national of a 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 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.

An alien shall not be eligible for temporary protected status under this section if the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security finds that the alien has been convicted of any felony or two or more

misdemeanors committed in the United States. See Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a).

8 C.F.R. § 244.1 defines “felony” and “misdemeanor:”

Felony means a crime committed in the United States, punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, except: When the offense is defined by the State as a misdemeanor and the sentence actually imposed is one year or less regardless of the term such alien actually served. Under this exception for purposes of section 244 of the Act, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor.

Misdemeanor means a crime committed in the United States, either

- (1) Punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, or
- (2) A crime treated as a misdemeanor under the term “felony” of this section.

For purposes of this definition, any crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of five days or less shall not be considered a misdemeanor.

The record shows that on May 2, 2000, in the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside, Case No. [REDACTED] (arrest date April 30, 2000), the applicant, under the name of [REDACTED] was convicted of Count 1, false impersonation of another, 529(3) PC, a misdemeanor; Count 2, unlicensed operator, 12500(a) VC, a misdemeanor; and Count 3, failure to stop for red light, 21453(a) VC, an infraction. He was placed on probation for a period of 24 months under the condition that he “be committed to custody of RSO” for 10 days, and he was ordered to pay \$110 in fines and costs.

On appeal, counsel asserts that the director failed to state whether the convictions that allegedly serve as ground for the denial were either a single felony conviction or two misdemeanor convictions. He further asserts that Vehicle Code of California, § 12500(a) and § 21453(a) are infractions under the Vehicle Code, not misdemeanors under the Penal Code; therefore the applicant’s convictions of one misdemeanor and two infractions do not disqualify him from receiving TPS.

Counsel is correct in asserting that 21453(a) VC is an infraction. However, § 40000.11 VC states that a violation of § 12500(a), relating to unlicensed drivers, “is a misdemeanor, and not an infraction.” Furthermore, § 42002 of the California Vehicle Code states:

Unless a different penalty is expressly provided by this code, every person convicted of a misdemeanor for a violation of any of the provisions of this code shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment in the county jail for not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Additionally, § 19 of the California Penal Code states:

Except in cases where a different punishment is prescribed by any law of this state, every offense declared to be a misdemeanor is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both.

Because the applicant was convicted of a crime for which he could have received a jail sentence of more than five days, he has, for immigration purposes, been convicted of a misdemeanor. 8 C.F.R. § 244.1.

Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for TPS due to his two misdemeanor convictions, detailed above. Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed.

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.