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U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

MI

[REDACTED]

FILE:

[REDACTED]  
[EAC 03 198 50972]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **NOV 29 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:

[REDACTED]

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 "R. 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 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 determined that the applicant failed to establish she had: 1) continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998; and 2) been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999. The director, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, counsel for the applicant states that the applicant is prima facie eligible for TPS. According to counsel, the applicant has been present in the United States since the most recent TPS re-designation of Honduras.

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 as 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.

The term *continuously physically present*, as used in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. Any departure, not authorized by CIS, including any brief, casual, and innocent departure, shall be deemed to break an alien's continuous physical presence.

The term *continuously resided* as used in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1 means residing in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations and since December 30, 1998. 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 Hondurans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that they have been continuously physically present since January 5, 1999. On May 11, 2000, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until July 5, 2001. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest extension valid until July 5, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite 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 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).

While Bureau regulations may allow children of TPS beneficiaries to file their applications after the initial registration period had closed; these regulations do not relax the requirements for eligibility for TPS. The child is still required to meet the continuous residence and continuous physical presence requirements as provided in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Contrary to counsel's argument, as discussed above, the applicant is required to establish that she has continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that she has been continuously physically present since January 5, 1999, not since the latest re-designation of Hondurans as TPS-eligible. By her own admission, the applicant arrived in the United States on April 12, 2002. It is also noted that Service records contain a Form I-862, Notice to Appear that states that the applicant arrived in the United States on or about April 12, 2002. Therefore, she cannot satisfy the residence and physical requirements described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c).

The applicant is not eligible for TPS as a Honduran because she arrived in the United States subsequent to the eligibility period. Therefore, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status 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.