



U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 02 009 52712]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: OCT 06 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, 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 had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and had been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

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 is eligible for TPS 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 valid until September 9, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

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 Citizenship and Immigration Services (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 applicant filed her initial Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on September 17, 2001. In support of her initial application, the applicant submitted the following documentation:

1. A photocopy of an abstract of her El Salvadoran birth certificate, with English translation, issued in El Salvador on May 14, 2001;
2. A photocopy of her El Salvadoran personal identification card (*cédula*); and,
3. Letters from four acquaintances attesting to their knowledge of the applicant.

On November 24, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods.

The applicant was informed that such evidence may include, but was not limited to, employment or school records, rent/mortgage payment receipts, bank or insurance documents, medical or utility bills, or other similar materials. In response, the applicant submitted a letter, dated December 18, 2003, stating that she had entered the United States in April 2000, but had no additional documentation to support her TPS application.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish her eligibility for TPS and denied the application on March 24, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant submits a letter requesting that her application be approved so that she can work legally in the United States and support her child. In support of the appeal, the applicant submits the following additional documentation:

4. An undated letter from an acquaintance, [REDACTED] stating that the applicant had continuously resided in the United States since February 2001;
5. A photocopy of a document from the Boston Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, noting the birth of the applicant's child, [REDACTED], on [REDACTED] and,
6. Photocopies of medical receipts with hand-written dates of December 7, 2001, and December 2002.

The applicant claims to have lived in the United States since April 2000. It is reasonable to assume that she would have a variety of contemporaneous evidence to support this claim. Letters from acquaintances (Nos. 3 and 4, above) are not, by themselves, persuasive evidence of qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence. Furthermore, Nos. 5 and 6 are all dated beyond the dates required to establish eligibility for TPS.

It is concluded that the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, or her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for Temporary Protected Status will 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.