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U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
[SRC 04 142 54056]

Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date: SEP 02 2005

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
Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Texas 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 applying for 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 statement and resubmits documentation that had previously been entered into the record.

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.

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.

The phrase brief, casual, and innocent absence, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means a departure from the United States that satisfies the following criteria:

- (1) Each such absence was of short duration and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose(s) for the absence;
- (2) The absence was not the result of an order of deportation, an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure without the institution of deportation proceedings; and
- (3) The purposes for the absence from the United States or actions while outside of the United States were not contrary to law.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that they have been continuously physically present 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 validity of the latest extension until September 9, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The initial registration period for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed her initial TPS application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on April 22, 2004.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, she fell within the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) (listed above). If the qualifying condition or application has expired or been terminated, the individual must file within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of the qualifying condition in order to be considered for late initial registration. 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(g).

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).

On May 27, 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 qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. The applicant, in response, provided photocopies of: envelopes postmarked from El Salvador and addressed [REDACTED] in the United States on February 10, 2001, April 19, 2001, and May 17, 2001; and, a United States Postal Service receipt dated February 14, 2001.

With her initial application, the applicant also submitted: a Commonwealth of Kentucky Marriage Certificate, indicating that she married [REDACTED] on April 5, 2004, at Dixon, Kentucky; a fingerprint worksheet; her El Salvadoran birth certificate; her El Salvadoran identity document dated July 21, 2003; and, the Social Security card and Employment Authorization document (EAD) for [REDACTED] under Category A12 with validity from January 26, 2003 through March 9, 2005.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish she was eligible for late registration and denied the application on July 1, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant states that she qualifies for TPS as the spouse of an approved TPS registrant. In support of the appeal, the applicant resubmits a copy of her marriage certificate.

The applicant's marriage certificate specifies that the applicant and her husband were married in Kentucky on April 5, 2004. However, as noted above, to qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that she fell within the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2), during the initial registration period, which for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. Because the applicant's marriage did not occur until April 5, 2004, she was not married to an alien eligible to be a TPS registrant during the initial registration period. Therefore, the applicant has not met the requirements of 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.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish her continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. The applicant submitted postmarked envelopes addressed to her all dated between February and May 2001. She has not submitted any documentation for the years 2002 and 2003. In addition, her El Salvadoran national identity document indicates that it was issued to her on July 21, 2003, in Cuscatlan, Cojutepeque, El Salvador. The applicant has, therefore, also failed to establish that she has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c), and the application must also be denied for these reasons.

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.