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U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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MM

FILE:

[REDACTED]
[EAC 03 250 55568]

OFFICE: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

DATE: SEP 07 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, 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 claims to be 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 denied the application because the applicant had failed to establish that she was eligible for late registration.

On appeal, counsel submits a statement.

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 on July 6, 1999. That application was denied on June 23, 2001, due to abandonment because the applicant had failed to respond to a request for evidence. The applicant did not file a motion to reopen within 30 days from the date of the denial.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821 application on September 6, 2003. The director denied this second application because it was filed outside of the initial registration period and because the applicant had failed to establish that she was eligible for late registration. Since the applicant did properly file an application during the initial registration period, the director did not sufficiently explain the entire basis for denial.

The applicant's initial Form I-821 was properly filed on July 6, 1999. That initial application was denied by the director on June 23, 2001. 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 for 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 September 6, 2003. Since the initial application was denied on June 23, 2001, 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 alien 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 § 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 condition described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

The term *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 term *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.

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 time period.

The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999. The record shows that the applicant filed her TPS application on September 6, 2003.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period from January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999, she fell within the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) (listed above).

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 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 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).

In a notice of intent to deny dated October 1, 2003, 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, in response, provided evidence of her continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States, a copy of her marriage certificate indicating that she married [REDACTED] on May 20, 2003, and a copy of [REDACTED] Employment Authorization Card as evidence that [REDACTED] has been granted TPS.

The director noted that the applicant's marriage on May 20, 2003, occurred after the initial registration period. The director, therefore, determined that the applicant was ineligible for late registration and denied the application on February 13, 2004.

On appeal, counsel asserts that the applicant never received the request for additional evidence and she did not find out that the initial application had been denied until after she filed for re-registration. Counsel further asserts that the applicant filed under the late initial registration because she is the spouse of an alien who is currently eligible for TPS and "she is otherwise eligible and was so at the time of the initial registration.

Counsel's assertions are not persuasive. The record shows that the requests for additional evidence dated October 6, 1999 and January 8, 2000, and the director's notice of denial dated June 23, 2000, were all mailed to the applicant at the address she provided to CIS. There is no evidence that any or all of the three notices were returned to CIS as undeliverable. Furthermore, the record shows that the applicant and [REDACTED] were married on May 20, 2003. While the regulations may allow spouses of aliens who are TPS-eligible to file their applications after the initial registration period had closed, the applicant and [REDACTED] were not married at the time of the initial registration period (from January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999). Therefore, the applicant, during the initial registration period, did not meet the qualification of a spouse of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2)(iv).

The applicant has failed to establish that she has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, 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.