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U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE: [REDACTED]  
[EAC 02 233 51155]

Office: Vermont Service Center

Date: **SEP 26 2005**

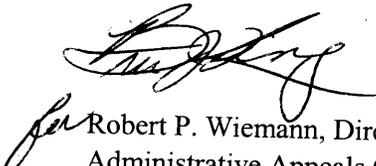
IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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.

  
for 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 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 her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods.

On appeal, the applicant asserts her eligibility for TPS and submits evidence in support of her claim.

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.

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 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. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity 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 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).

On January 7, 2004, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9,

2001, to the date of filing her application. The director determined that the record did not contain a response from the applicant; therefore, the director denied the application on April 5, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant provides the following documentation: copies of her El Salvadoran birth certificate and personal identification card issued in El Salvador on March 12, 2001; a copy of an affidavit dated June 17, 2002, from her husband [REDACTED] who stated that the applicant has been in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that she has been living with him in the United States since January 1999; a copy of an affidavit dated June 17, 2003, from [REDACTED] who stated that the applicant has been in the United States since February 13, 2001, and the applicant has been living with her husband in the United States since January 1999; a copy of an affidavit dated June 17, 2002, from [REDACTED] Amaya, who stated that the applicant has been in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that he is a co-worker with her husband and aware that the applicant has been in the United States since January 1999; an affidavit dated April 14, 2004, from [REDACTED] who stated that the applicant has worked for her as a babysitter since March 2000; an affidavit dated April 24, 2004, from her husband; a copy of a lease agreement dated November 1, 2002, between [REDACTED] which reflects that the applicant was an occupant; and copies of an Account Summary Information Sheet dated May 19, 2003, from the Bank of America, reflecting bank accounts in the name of [REDACTED] Castro.

The Account Summary from the Bank of America post-dates the beginning of the requisite time periods for El Salvadoran TPS. In addition, the statements provided by the affiants regarding the applicant's claimed continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States are not supported by corroborative evidence. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some type of contemporaneous evidence to support these assertions; however, no corroborative evidence has been provided to cover the requisite time periods for Salvadoran TPS. Affidavits from acquaintances and family members are not, by themselves, persuasive evidence of continuous residence or continuous physical presence. It is also noted that the applicant's personal identification card (Cedula) was issued to her on March 12, 2001, in El Salvador. Therefore, the applicant could not have met the requirements that she had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and she had been continuously physically present in the United States from March 9, 2001. The applicant has, thereby, failed to establish that she has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS will be affirmed.

An alien applying for TPS 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.