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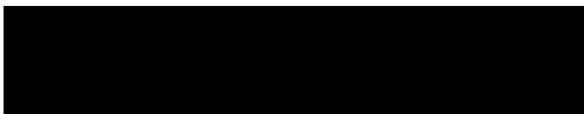
Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

[EAC 04 221 51898]

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, Chief
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 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 she was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant submits copies of evidence previously submitted in support of the application.

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 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 § 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 granted until September 9, 2007, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001 through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed her TPS application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on July 23, 2004.

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 first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The record of proceedings confirms that the applicant filed her current TPS application after the initial registration period had closed. To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, she fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

On August 30, 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, in response, submitted documentation relating to her residence and physical presence in the United States.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish she was eligible for late registration and denied the application on October 20, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant submits copies of evidence previously submitted to establish her qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States.

However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file her Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence 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 conclusion that the applicant had failed to establish her eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

The second issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

The applicant indicated on her Form I-821 that she first entered the United States without inspection on October 1, 2000.

In response to the Notice of Intent to Deny dated August 30, 2004, the applicant submitted the following evidence:

1. a photocopy of an apartment lease for an apartment located [REDACTED] Plainfield, New Jersey, from November 1, 2000 to November 1, 2001;
2. a photocopy of billing statement from the [REDACTED] utility company in New Brunswick, Jersey, with a due date of December 23, 2000;
3. a photocopy of an after-care instruction sheet from [REDACTED] Center in Plainfield, New Jersey, dated November 11, 2000;
4. a photocopy of a "Physician Permission Certificate for Return to School or Work" dated November 10, 2000, from Plainfield Health Center in Plainfield, New Jersey;
5. a letter dated September 9, 2004, from [REDACTED] El Salvador Restaurant in Somerville, New Jersey, stating that the applicant had worked in her restaurant since 2000; and,
6. a photocopy of the applicant's 2000 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, from the El Salvador Restaurant.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite period and denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant submits photocopies of documents previously submitted in support of the application, but she does not provide any additional evidence to establish her qualifying continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods.

The documents listed in Nos. 2 through 6 above do not establish the applicant's qualifying continuous physical presence in the United States because they are dated prior to the requisite period. The apartment lease (No. 1 above) alone is not sufficient to establish the applicant's continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence establishing that she actually resided in the apartment in 2001, nor has the applicant provided any documentation to establish her continuous physical presence in the United States in 2002, 2003, or during the period from January 1, 2004 to July 23, 2004, the filing date of her TPS application.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite period. She has, therefore, failed to establish that she has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS on these grounds will also be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant has failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001 as described at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(c). The applicant has also failed to submit an official Salvadoran photo identification document to establish her identity and nationality as described at 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(1). Therefore, the application also must be denied for these reasons.

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.