

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE:



Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: DEC 08 2006

[EAC 02 048 51505]

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:



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 that he had: 1) entered the United States prior to February 13, 2001; 2) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; and 3) been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant asserts his claim of eligibility for TPS.

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 TPS only if such alien establishes that he or she:

- (a) Is a national of a 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 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.

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. An extension of the program for El Salvadorans was granted from September 9, 2003 until March 9, 2005. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted with the latest extension valid until September 9, 2007, 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).

The applicant initially submitted the following documentation along with his initial TPS application:

1. An affidavit from [REDACTED] in which she stated that she has interacted with the applicant who has resided in Massachusetts since November 2, 2000; and,
2. An affidavit from [REDACTED] in which she stated that the applicant has resided in her home at [REDACTED], since November 2, 2000.

On October 30, 2002, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence and continuous presence in the United States during the requisite time period. The applicant failed to respond to the director's request for evidence. The director denied the application on March 28, 2003, due to abandonment. The applicant filed a motion to reopen on September 14, 2004.

On March 2, 2005, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001, in the United States. The applicant failed to respond to the director's request for evidence.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit any evidence to establish his eligibility for TPS and denied the application on May 16, 2005.

On appeal, the applicant counsel asserts the applicant's claim of eligibility for TPS and submits the following documentation:

3. A letter from [REDACTED] of Antonio's Pizza in which he stated that the applicant has been employed with the restaurant as a cook since January of 2001;
4. A letter from [REDACTED] general manager of Antonio's Pizza in which he stated that the applicant has been employed by the restaurant since January of 2001;
5. Copies of pay statements from [REDACTED] bearing the applicant's name as employee and dated May and June of 2002;
6. A copy of a billing statement from [REDACTED] dated November 17, 2004;
7. Copies of pay stubs from [REDACTED] bearing the applicant's name as employee and dated April of 2003, October, and November of 2004;
8. A copy of a Verizon bill dated December 3, 2004 and bearing the applicant's name;
9. A letter from the Social Security Administration addressed to the applicant and dated February 27, 2002; and,
10. A photocopy of the applicant's Rhode Island Identification Card issued to him on December 10, 2002.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. There has been no corroborating evidence submitted to support the statements made by the affiants referred to in numbers 1 and 2 above concerning the applicant's presence in the United States since November of 2000. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some type of contemporaneous evidence to support these assertions; however, no such evidence has been provided. Affidavits are not, by themselves, persuasive evidence of continuous residence or continuous physical presence. Although the letters from Antonio's Pizza (see numbers 3 and 4 above) indicate that the restaurant employed the applicant since January of 2001, the applicant submitted pay stubs dated April of 2003, October and November of 2004, which do not cover the requisite time periods.

The remaining evidence submitted by the applicant is dated subsequent to the requisite time periods; and therefore, cannot be used to establish TPS eligibility. The applicant has failed to establish that he has met the continuous residence and continuous physical presence 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. The application will be denied for the above reasons, with each considered as an independent and alternative basis for denial.



ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.