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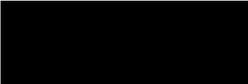
U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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FILE:



Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: FEB 27 2006

[EAC 04 073 51689]

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

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 (AAO) 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 she was eligible for late registration.

On appeal, the applicant submits a letter.

As stated in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, "register" means "to properly file, with the director, a completed application, with proper fee, for [TPS] during the registration period designated under section 244(b) of the Act."

The record reveals that the applicant filed a first Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on April 13, 2001, during the initial registration period (EAC 01 179 50186 relates). On February 20, 2003, the director requested the applicant to submit evidence of her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The record reflects that the applicant failed to respond to the director's request.

The director denied the applicant's first TPS application on June 11, 2003, due to abandonment. Since the application was denied due to abandonment there was no appeal available; however, the applicant could have filed a request for a motion to reopen within 30 days from the date of the director's denial. The applicant did not file a motion to reopen during the requisite timeframe.

The applicant filed the instant Form I-821 on January 15, 2004. The director denied this second application because it was filed outside of the initial registration period and because the applicant had failed to establish her eligibility for filing under the provisions of late registration.

Any Form I-821 application subsequently submitted by the same applicant after an initial application is filed and a decision on that application is rendered, must be considered as either a request for annual re-registration or as a new filing for TPS benefits. If an applicant is filing an application for annual re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must re-register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of TPS eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

Since the applicant's first Form I-821 was denied on June 11, 2003, due to abandonment, this application cannot be considered as an application for annual re-registration. The Form I-821 can only be considered as a new filing for TPS benefits under the provisions of late registration, since the application was filed outside of the initial registration period.

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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001. The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. As previously indicated, the applicant filed this TPS application on January 15, 2004.

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.

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 12, 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, provided a letter stating that she qualified for late registration because she had a pending application for asylum and had been granted voluntary departure.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish she was eligible for late registration and denied the application on December 9, 2004. The director noted that the applicant's asylum application had been closed on May 29, 1998, and that the applicant had been granted voluntary departure until April 13, 1999.

On appeal, the applicant submits a letter stating that her asylum application had been closed because circumstances prevented her from attending an interview required in connection with that application.

The record confirms that the applicant filed the instant Form I-821 after the initial registration period had expired. Since the applicant's first Form I-821 was denied, the instant Form I-821 cannot be considered as an application for annual re-registration. The instant application can only be considered as a new filing for TPS benefits under the provisions of late registration, since the application was filed outside of the initial registration period.

CIS records reflect that the applicant filed a Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, on April 2, 1998. On June 1, 1998, the application was denied for failure to appear for an interview required in connection with the application, and the applicant was scheduled for a hearing before an immigration judge. On December 14, 1998, the applicant withdrew her application for asylum and withholding of removal before an immigration judge, and she was granted until April 13, 1999 to depart the United States, with an alternate order of removal to El Salvador. That order of removal remains outstanding.

In order to be eligible for late registration under 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2)(i) or (ii), CIS regulations also require that the applicant be granted voluntary departure or have an application for asylum pending during the initial registration period, and that it be filed within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of conditions that made the applicant eligible for late registration. In this case, the applicant's asylum application was withdrawn before an immigration judge on December 14, 1998, and she was granted voluntary departure from the United States on or before April 13, 1999, more than one year prior to the commencement of the initial registration period.

The applicant did not file her application during the initial registration period or during the allotted 60-day late registration period described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(g). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for Temporary Protected Status will be affirmed.

It is noted that the applicant responded on her Form I-821, that she had “been arrested, cited, charged, indicted, fined, or imprisoned for breaking or violating any law or ordinance, excluding traffic violations, or been the beneficiary of a pardon, amnesty, rehabilitation decree, other act of clemency or similar action.” However, the applicant has failed to provide any details concerning this admission.

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.