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**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

MI

FILE:

[REDACTED]
[EAC 03 040 53063]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **JAN 06 2006**

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.

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 that he was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish his qualifying continuous residence in the United States during the requisite time period.

On appeal, the applicant submits a additional documentation.

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, 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 since March 9, 2001. The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed his initial Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on September 16, 2002, one week after the initial registration period had ended.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period he 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 he 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 his burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

In support of his initial Form I-821, the applicant submitted evidence of his identity and nationality. He also submitted:

1. A letter, dated September 9, 2002, from the associate pastor of the Shrine of Saint Jude, Rockville, Maryland, stating that the applicant had been a registered member of the parish since October 1998;

2. Photocopies of correspondence from State Farm Insurance Companies, dated July 13, 2001, and December 17, 2001;
3. Photocopies of rent receipts dated November and December 1999, and March, April, May, and August 2000; and,
4. Photocopies of receipts dated October 1999; February, March, and September 2000; and, January 2001.

On April 26, 2004, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001. The record reflects that the applicant failed to respond to the director's request.

The director determined that the documentation submitted was not sufficient to establish the applicant's qualifying continuous residence in the United States during the requisite time period. The director also determined that the applicant had failed to submit any evidence to establish his eligibility for late registration. The director denied the application on July 28, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant states that he did not receive the director's request for evidence because he had changed his address. No additional documentation has been provided by the applicant in support of his appeal.

It is concluded that the applicant has failed to overcome the grounds cited by the director for denial of the application. The record confirms that the applicant filed his TPS application after the initial registration period had expired. The applicant has submitted evidence in an attempt to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his Form I-821 within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that he has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Furthermore, it is concluded that the documentation provided is not sufficient to establish the applicant's continuous residence in the United States from February 13, 2001, through to the date of filing his TPS application on September 16, 2002. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. Therefore, application may also not be approved for this 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.