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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 04 066 52198]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **JAN 09 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.

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 that she was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had 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 claim of eligibility for TPS.

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

The record reveals that the applicant did file an initial application for TPS during the initial registration period. That application was denied on June 26, 2003 due to abandonment. The applicant did not file a motion to reopen during the requisite timeframe.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on January 2, 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. Since the applicant did properly file an application during the initial registration period, the director erred in his explanation of the basis for denial. While the director found the applicant ineligible for TPS because she had failed to establish eligibility for late registration, the director's decision did not sufficiently explain the entire basis for denial.

The applicant's initial Form I-821 was properly filed on October 1, 2001. The director denied the initial TPS application on June 26, 2003. Any Form I-821 application subsequently submitted by the same applicant after an initial application is filed and a decision rendered must be considered as either a request for annual registration or as a new filing for TPS benefits.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821 on January 2, 2004. Since the initial application was denied on June 26, 2003, the subsequent application cannot be considered as a re-registration. Therefore, this application can only be considered as a late registration.

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.
- (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. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted 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 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 first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed her application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on January 2, 2004.

The record of proceedings confirms that the applicant filed her 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 was either in a valid immigration status, had an application pending for relief from removal, was a parolee, or was the spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant, and that she had filed an application for late registration within 60 days of the expiration or termination of the conditions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2).

On March 24, 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 was also requested to submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The applicant, in response, provided documentation relating to her residence and physical presence in the United States.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish that she was eligible for late registration and denied the application on June 18, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant reasserts her claim of eligibility for TPS.

The applicant submitted evidence in an attempt 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 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 her continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

The applicant initially submitted the following documentation:

1. An affidavit [REDACTED] which he stated that he had known the applicant since January 1, 2001, when he met her at a church meeting;
2. A copy of the applicant's El Salvadorian passport issued to her in Washington, DC on July 31, 2001;
3. A photocopy of a student report card generated from [REDACTED] dated January 31, 2001; and,
4. A photocopy of a pay statement from Potomac Services, Inc. bearing the applicant's name as employee with the pay period ending February 9, 2001.

As stated above, the applicant was requested on March 24, 2004, to submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. The applicant, in response, resubmitted photocopies of the student report card dated July 31, 2001, and the pay statement dated February 9, 2001, to February 19, 2001.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish her eligibility for TPS and denied the application on June 18, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant reasserts her claim of eligibility for TPS.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient credible evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, or her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. There has been no corroborative evidence submitted to support the statements [REDACTED] Bonilla regarding his acquaintance with the applicant since January of 2001. Without corroborative evidence, affidavits from acquaintances do not substantiate clear and convincing evidence of the applicant's continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. Moreover, affidavits are only specifically listed as acceptable evidence for proof of employment, and attestations by churches, unions, or other organizations of the applicant's residence as described in 8 C.F.R. §244.9(a)(2)(i) and (v). The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

The applicant's passport (No. 2 above) was issued to her subsequent to February 13, 2001, and March 9, 2001, and therefore, cannot be used to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence from that

period forward. The school record that the applicant submitted as evidence is dated prior to the requisite time period and cannot be used to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence. The applicant submitted a copy of a pay statement that indicated that the applicant was paid wages for the pay period ending February 9, 2001, which is also prior to the requisite time period.

The applicant has 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 on these grounds will also 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.