

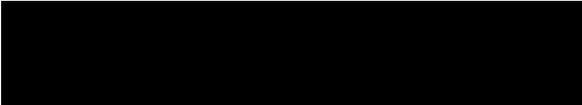


U.S. Citizenship  
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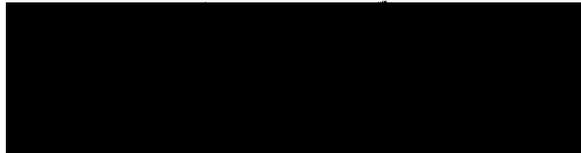


FILE: [REDACTED]  
[EAC 02 242 53006]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: JUN 05 2006

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, 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 he had: 1) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; and 2) 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 TPS designation has been granted with validity 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 provided the following documentation relating to his residence and physical presence in the United States:

1. Copies of pay stubs from [REDACTED] inc. bearing the name [REDACTED] as employee and dated December of 1999 and January, February, March, June, July, and October of 2000; and,
2. Copies of pay statements from [REDACTED] Company bearing the name [REDACTED] as employee and dated February, March, and April of 2000.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his eligibility for TPS and denied the application on January 12, 2005.

On appeal, the applicant reasserts his claim of eligibility for TPS and submits the following evidence relating to his residence and physical presence in the United States:

3. A copy of the applicant's IRS Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for the year 2003;
4. A copy of the applicant's IRS W-2 form, Wage and Tax Statement for the year 2003;

5. Copies of rent receipts from [REDACTED] Apartments bearing the name [REDACTED] [REDACTED] tenant and dated October and November of 2002, June, November, and December of 2004; and January of 2005;
6. A copy of a lease agreement dated October 15, 2002 [REDACTED] Apartments listing the name [REDACTED] as tenant;
7. Copies of pay statements from [REDACTED] Company bearing the name [REDACTED] as employee and dated February, March, and April of 2000; August, September, and December of 2002; January, February, and March of 2003; and July, August, September, and October of 2003;
8. Copies of pay statements from [REDACTED] Inc. bearing the name [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and dated January, February, March, April, October, November, and December of 2004; and,
9. Copies of PEPCO utility bills bearing the name [REDACTED] and dated January through December of 2002, and January through October of 2003.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. There appear to be inconsistencies in the evidence submitted by the applicant. Doubt cast on any aspect of the applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. It is incumbent upon the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1988).

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.