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

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MAR 22 2006

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER Date:
[WAC 05 103 80255]

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, California Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a citizen of Honduras who is seeking Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

The applicant filed his initial TPS application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on October 16, 2000, under CIS receipt number EAC 01 084 50667. The Director of the Vermont Service Center denied that application on May 1, 2003, after determining that the applicant had abandoned his application by failing to respond to a request for additional evidence dated July 19, 2001. The applicant did not file an appeal from the denial decision.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on January 11, 2005, and indicated that he was re-registering for TPS or renewing his temporary treatment benefits.

The director denied the application on June 28, 2005, because the applicant's initial TPS application had been denied and the applicant was not eligible to apply for re-registration or renewal of his temporary treatment 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. If an applicant is applying for renewal of temporary treatment benefits, he or she must have a pending TPS application.

In this case, the applicant has not previously been granted TPS. Therefore, he is not eligible to re-register for TPS or to renew temporary treatment benefits. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed.

It is noted that the director's decision does not explore the possibility that the applicant was attempting to file a late initial application for TPS instead of an annual re-registration.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant may apply for TPS during the initial registration period, or:

> (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 initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999. The record reveals that the applicant filed the current TPS application with CIS on January 11, 2005.

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).

The applicant has failed to provide any evidence to establish that this application should be accepted as a late initial registration under 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant has also failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999, as described at 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Therefore, the application also must be denied for these 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.