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**U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 05 190 70905]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **MAY 31 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 "R. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
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 claims to be a 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 failed to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods.

On appeal, the applicant submits a brief statement.

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 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 § 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 applicant filed his initial Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on April 8, 2005, two years and seven months after the initial registration period had ended. The applicant indicated on his application that he was born in El Salvador and is a citizen of the Dominican Republic.

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 the following documentation:

1. A photocopy of an abstract of an El Salvadoran birth certificate, with English translation;
2. Photocopies of utility statements, dated January through March, 2001; and,

3. A photocopy of an earnings statement, dated January 12, 2001.

On August 2, 2005, the director requested the applicant 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 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 determined that the applicant had failed to establish that he was eligible for late registration, and had failed to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The director denied the application on September 21, 2005.

On appeal, the applicant states that he is including evidence in support of his appeal; however, no additional documentation was received.

There are numerous discrepancies and alterations noted in the documentation submitted by the applicant. At the time of filing his initial TPS application, the applicant indicated that he was single, never married, and had never used a Social Security number. However, the earnings statement provided indicates that he was married and used Social Security number [REDACTED] early 2001. There also appear to be alterations in the dates on the earnings statement. While the statement indicates that the applicant's earnings are for the pay period January 7, 2001, to January 12, 2001, the year-to-date total earnings are indicated as \$3, 142.25. It also appears that the utility statements have been altered with the applicant's name and address inserted in lieu of the original account holder's name. These discrepancies and alterations call into question the applicant's ability to document the requirements under the statute and regulations. Doubt cast on any aspect of the evidence as submitted may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. Further, it is incumbent on the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence; any 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. (Comm. 1988).

Based on a review of the record, it is concluded that the documentation submitted by the applicant is not credible and is not sufficient to establish that he satisfies the continuous residence and continuous physical presence requirements described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Furthermore, the applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that he meets any of the requirements for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for Temporary Protected Status will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his nationality and identity, as required under the provisions of 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(1). As noted above, the applicant indicated on his Form I-821 that he is a citizen of the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic is not a foreign state designated under section 244(b); therefore, it's nationals are not eligible for TPS benefits. Therefore, the application must also be denied for this reason.

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.