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**U.S. Citizenship
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Services**

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FILE:

[REDACTED]

OFFICE: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

DATE: **MAY 25 2006**

[WAC 05 075 72403]

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".

A small, stylized handwritten mark or initials, possibly "R.P.W.", located to the left of the typed name.

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
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 native and 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 record reveals that the applicant filed a TPS application during the initial registration period under Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) receipt number WAC 99 165 51999. The District Director, Los Angeles, California, denied that application on February 8, 2001, because the applicant was inadmissible to the United States based on his arrest for felony possession of a narcotic controlled substance. On August 17, 2004, the Director, California Service Center, dismissed the applicant's motion to reopen because the motion did not state new facts and was not supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(2) or (3). On September 15, 2004, the applicant filed Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal to the Administrative Appeals Unit, and stated that he is appealing the district director's August 17, 2004, denial. The director treated the appeal as a motion to reopen and again dismissed the motion on October 13, 2004, because the motion was not filed within 30 days of the denial of the initial application.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on December 14, 2004, and indicated that he was re-registering for TPS.

The director denied the re-registration application because the applicant's initial TPS application had been denied and the applicant was not eligible to apply for re-registration for TPS.

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.

In this case, the applicant has not previously been granted TPS. Therefore, he is not eligible to re-register for TPS. 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 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 initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999. The record reveals that the applicant filed the current application with CIS on December 14, 2004.

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 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 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). However, the provisions of TPS do not allow approval of any application filed by an individual convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors, as is the case in this instance. Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a).

An alien shall not be eligible for temporary protected status under this section if the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security finds that the alien has been convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States. See Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a).

8 C.F.R. § 244.1 defines “felony” and “misdemeanor:”

Felony means a crime committed in the United States, punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, except: When the offense is defined by the State as a misdemeanor and the sentence actually imposed is one

year or less regardless of the term such alien actually served. Under this exception for purposes of section 244 of the Act, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor.

Misdemeanor means a crime committed in the United States, either

- (1) Punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, or
- (2) A crime treated as a misdemeanor under the term "felony" of this section.

For purposes of this definition, any crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of five days or less shall not be considered a misdemeanor.

An alien is inadmissible if he has been convicted of, or admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of (or a conspiracy to violate) any law or regulation of a State, the United States, or a foreign country relating to a controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC 802). Section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the Act.

An alien is inadmissible if a consular officer or immigration officer knows or has reason to believe he is or has been an illicit trafficker in any such controlled substance. Section 212(a)(2)(C) of the Act.

The record indicates that on January 22, 1997, in the Superior Court of the State of California, for the County of Los Angeles, [REDACTED] (arrest date December 30, 1996), the applicant was indicted for Count 1, sale/transportation/offer to sell controlled substance (cocaine base), Health & Safety Code (H&S) 11352(a), a felony; and Count 2, sale/transportation/offer to sell controlled substance (heroin), H&S 11352(a), a felony. On January 29, 1997, the applicant was convicted of Count 1. He was placed on probation for a period of 3 years, ordered to spend 90 days in jail and pay \$250 in fines and costs, and was further ordered to "register as narcotics offender." Count 2 was dismissed.

The applicant is ineligible for TPS due to his felony conviction, and because he is inadmissible to the United States pursuant to sections 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) and 212(a)(2)(C) of the Act based on his conviction of sale/transportation (trafficking) of a controlled substance. Sections 244(c)(2)(B)(i) and 244(c)(1)(A)(iii) of the Act. Therefore, the application also must be denied for this reason.

The record contains a Warrant of Deportation, Form I-205, issued on March 5, 1997, in Los Angeles, California. On March 7, 1997, the applicant was removed from the United States to Honduras.

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.