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U.S. Citizenship
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FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date:

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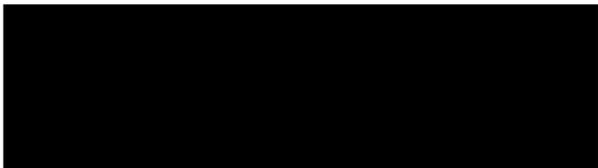
IN RE:

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:



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".

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 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 record reveals that the applicant filed Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status on May 31, 2002 under CIS receipt number SRC 02 188 55035. The application was initially denied in error by the Director, Texas Service Center, on June 27, 2002 because the applicant failed to submit documents to establish that he continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998 and had been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999. The director therefore, made a determination that he is ineligible for TPS benefits issued to Hondurans. On March 17, 2003, a Motion to Reopen was submitted by counsel, correctly arguing that denial was in error because the applicant is an El Salvadoran.

The Service then reopened the case and issued a Request for Additional Evidence on February 2, 2004 instructing the applicant to submit a photo identification, evidence to show that he arrived in the United States prior to February 13, 2001 and that he had been continuously physically present in the United States from March 9, 2001. On April 5, 2004, a response was received containing copies of an El Salvadoran photo identification document issued by the General Consulate of El Salvador located in Houston, Texas, money transmittal receipts and preprinted receipts with handwritten notations written by the applicant, three affidavits from his brother, brother-in-law, and an acquaintance. The Director found the evidence not credible and unpersuasive. She therefore denied the application on September 1, 2004.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on April 21, 2005 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 therefore not eligible to apply for re-registration under 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 had 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 may apply for TPS during the initial registration period, or:

- (f) (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 El Salvador was from March 9, 2001 to September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed the current application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on April 21, 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 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). Therefore, the application also must 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.