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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

MI

FILE:

Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: OCT 16 2006

[WAC 05 222 86361]

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.

for 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 (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is 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 a TPS application during the initial registration period on May 30, 2001, under Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) receipt number SRC 01 229 58126. The Director, Texas Service Center, denied that application for abandonment on February 11, 2003, because the applicant failed to respond to a request for evidence to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period. The applicant also failed to submit requested evidence of his nationality and identity. There is nothing in the record to indicate that the applicant filed a motion to reopen the director's decision.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on May 10, 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 not eligible to apply for re-registration for TPS.

On appeal, counsel for the applicant states the applicant entered the United States in December 2000 and has resided continuously in this country since his arrival. The applicant also submits evidence of his nationality and identity and evidence of his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period.

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 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 Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001 through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed the current application with CIS on May 10, 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).

On appeal, counsel for the applicant states that he entered the United States in December 2000 and has continuously resided in this country since then. According to counsel, the applicant initially filed for TPS on May 30, 2001, and the fact that he was issued an employment authorization card is a clear indication of his eligibility for TPS. Counsel also contends that it appears that CIS has no record of this initial registration. Counsel therefore requests that the applicant's TPS application be granted, as well as his employment authorization.

Contrary to counsel's assertion, the issuance of an employment authorization card is not evidence that the applicant is eligible for TPS. The employment authorization card is issued contingent on CIS reaching and rendering a final decision on the application. If the application is denied, the employment authorization is rescinded. In addition, CIS not only has a record of the applicant's initial TPS application, that application was denied on February 11, 2003 and a copy of that decision was sent to the applicant's address of record at the time. There is nothing in the record to indicate that the denial decision was returned to CIS by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable. Consequently, the applicant, and counsel should have been aware of the adjudication of his initial application.

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.

Beyond the decision of the director, it is noted that the applicant has provided insufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence since February 13, 2001 and continuous physical presence from March 9, 2001 to the filing date of the TPS application. Therefore, the application must be denied for these reasons as well.

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.