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

PUBLIC COPY

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FILE: [redacted] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: SEP 29 2006
[EAC 02 253 51358]

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, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Vermont 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 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 had: 1) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; and 2) been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant asserts his claim of eligibility for TPS.

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.

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 in the United States since March 9, 2001. An extension of the program for El Salvadorans was granted from September 9, 2003 until March 9, 2005. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted with the latest extension valid until September 9, 2007, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

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 Citizenship and Immigration Services (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 March 17, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001, in the United States. The applicant submitted the following documentation:

1. A copy of a [redacted] itinerary dated October 12, 1999 and bearing the applicant's name;
2. A copy of an undated Verizon phone bill bearing the name [redacted]; and,
3. A [redacted] receipt dated October 16, 1999 and bearing the applicant's name.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his eligibility for TPS and denied the application on June 6, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant reasserts his claim of eligibility for TPS and submits the following documentation:

4. An affidavit from [redacted] in which he stated that the applicant worked for him as a contractor from January of 2001 to April of 2002;

5. A notarized statement from in which he stated that the applicant lived with him at from 1999 to 2001;
6. A copy of an IRS Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement for the 2002 tax year from . and bearing the applicant's name as employee; and,
7. A copy of an IRS Form 1040 EZ, Income Tax Return for Single Joint Filers With No Dependents for the 2002 tax year and bearing the applicant's name.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The documents (see numbers 1 and 3 above) are dated prior to the time periodS in question and cannot be used to establish the applicant's eligibility. The copy of the Verizon bill (see number 2 above) is undated. The IRS documents (see numbers 6 and 7 above) are dated subsequent to the time periodS in question and cannot be used to establish the applicant's eligibility. The statements made by and regarding the applicant's claimed presence in the United States on or before February 13, 2001, are not supported by any corroborative evidence. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some type of contemporaneous evidence to support these assertions; however, no such evidence has been provided. Affidavits are not, by themselves, persuasive evidence of continuous residence or continuous physical presence.

The applicant has failed to establish that he has met the continuous residence and continuous physical presence criteria described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS will be affirmed.

An alien applying for TPS 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. The application will be denied for the above reasons, with each considered as an independent and alternative basis for denial.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.