

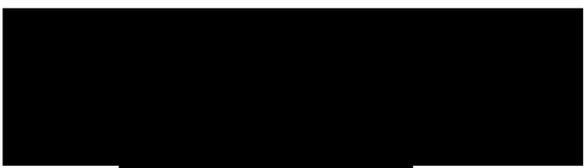


U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
[WAC 05 164 70807]

OFFICE: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

DATE: APR 03 2007

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: 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.


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 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 had failed to establish: (1) eligibility for late registration; (2) nationality and identity; and (3) continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an alien who is a national of a foreign state designated by the Attorney General 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 8 C.F.R. § 244.4; and
- (f)
 - (1) Registers for TPS 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 condition described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

The term *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.

The term *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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that they have been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. On July 9, 2002, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until September 9, 2003. 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 initial registration period for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record shows that the applicant filed her initial application on March 13, 2005.

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).

The first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The record of proceeding confirms that the applicant filed her application after the initial registration period had closed. To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period from March 9, 2001 through September 9, 2002, she fell within the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) (listed above).

In a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID) dated March 6, 2006, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The director determined that the evidence furnished in response to the NOID was insufficient to establish eligibility for late registration and denied the application on April 16, 2006.

On appeal, the applicant neither addressed nor submitted any evidence to establish that she has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the TPS application on this ground will be affirmed.

The second issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established her nationality and identity.

In a Notice of Intent to Deny dated March 6, 2006, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her nationality and identity. The director determined that, in response, the applicant has furnished insufficient evidence, and denied the application on April 16, 2006.

On appeal, the applicant submits a copy of an El Salvadoran passport issued to the applicant at Woodbridge, Virginia, on January 9, 2006.

The applicant has, therefore, overcome this ground for denial.

The third issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established her continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing the TPS application.

As stated above, the applicant was requested on March 6, 2006, to submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. In response, the applicant submitted:

1. A statement dated March 14, 2006, from [REDACTED], indicating that she has known the applicant "since earlier of the year 2001" because she was working for her distributing the newspaper [REDACTED] for five months.
2. A statement dated March 15, 2006, from [REDACTED], indicating that he has known the applicant since 2001 because "at that time, he did some Construction jobs for me."
3. A statement dated March 11, 2006, from [REDACTED], indicating that she has known the applicant "since earlier of the year 2001" because "he work with me in same place."
4. An undated statement from [REDACTED] indicating that she has known the applicant "since earlier of the year 2002" because "he works with me in same place."

The employment letters from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as detailed in Nos. 1 and 2 above, have little evidentiary weight or probative value as they do not provide basic information that is expressly required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(i). Specifically, the letters are not in affidavit form, they are not attested to by the employers under penalty of perjury, they do not provide the address or addresses where the applicant resided during the period of her employment, the exact period(s) of employment, and the periods(s) of layoff, if any. It is noted that [REDACTED] also failed to provide the name and location of his business or provide a telephone number, nor did he include the applicant's duties with the company. Additionally, the letters from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], as detailed in Nos. 3 and 4 above, also have little evidentiary weight or probative value as they do not provide the name and location of the employer where they claim to have been working together with the applicant, they did not list their addresses and also the address or addresses where the applicant resided during the time of their acquaintance, nor did they provide any details or specifics regarding the circumstances surrounding their acquaintanceship with the applicant. It is further noted that none of the statements (Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 above) were notarized or attested to under penalty of perjury

Regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2) do not expressly provide that personal affidavits on an applicant's behalf are sufficient to establish the applicant's qualifying continuous residence or continuous physical presence in the United States. Moreover, the statements provided to establish the applicant's qualifying residence in the United States were not supported by any other corroborative evidence. The applicant claimed to have lived in

the United States since April 2000. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some other type of contemporaneous evidence to support her claim; however, no such evidence has been provided.

Accordingly, the applicant has failed to establish that she has met the criteria for continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001, as described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the TPS application will also be denied on this ground.

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.