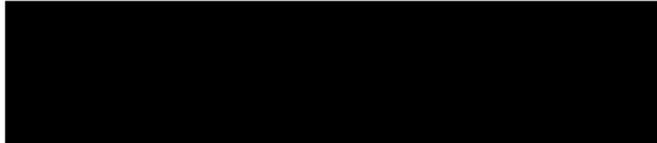


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FILE:

[EAC 01 223 53646]

OFFICE: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

DATE: APR 05 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.

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The applicant's Temporary Protected Status was withdrawn by the Director, Vermont Service Center. The application is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant claims to be a native and citizen of El Salvador who is seeking to maintain his Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

The director withdrew the applicant's TPS status because he found the applicant ineligible under section 244(C)(2)(B)(i) of the Act due to his three misdemeanor convictions in the United States.

On appeal, the applicant asserts he is a working man and asks for another chance.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 244.14 states:

- (a) Authority of the director. The director may withdraw the status of an alien granted Temporary Protected Status under section 244 of the Act at any time upon the occurrence of any of the following:
 - (1) The alien was not in fact eligible at the time such status was granted, or at any time thereafter becomes ineligible for such status;
 - (2) The alien has not remained continuously physically present in the United States from the date the alien was first granted Temporary Protected Status under this part. For the purpose of this provision, an alien granted Temporary Protected Status under this part shall be deemed not to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States if the alien departs the United States after first obtaining permission from the district director to travel pursuant to § 244.15;
 - (3) The alien fails without good cause to register with the Attorney General annually within thirty (30) days before the end of each 12-month period after the granting of Temporary Protected Status.

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.

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 a crime involving moral turpitude (other than a purely political offense), or if he admits having committed such crime, or if he admits committing an act which constitutes the essential elements of such crime. Section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Act.

The record reveals the following offenses:

- (1) On February 2, 2004, the applicant was convicted of wrongful taking of a motor vehicle in the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County, CR 7-105, Case [REDACTED]
- (2) On October 26, 2004, the applicant was convicted of Petit Larceny in Arlington County General District Court, § 18.2-95 Code of Virginia, [REDACTED]
- (3) On October 26, 2004, the applicant was convicted of Petit Larceny in Arlington County General District Court, § 18.2-96 Code of Virginia, [REDACTED]

On appeal, the applicant admits his convictions of three misdemeanors and asks that his TPS not be withdrawn.

The applicant is ineligible for TPS due to multiple misdemeanor convictions detailed above. Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a). Consequently, the director's decision to withdraw the approval of the application for this reason will be affirmed.

While the issue of the applicant's inadmissibility was not raised by the director, the applicant is also ineligible for TPS due to his inadmissibility under sections 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Act. The most commonly accepted definition of a crime involving moral turpitude is an act of baseness, vileness or depravity in the private and social duties which a man owes to his fellow men or to society in general, contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between man and man. *Jordan v. De George*, 341 U.S. 223, reh'g denied, 341 U.S. 956 (1951). The crime of Petit Larceny (No. 2 and 3 above) involves moral turpitude. *Matter of Garcia*, 11 I&N Dec. 521 (BIA 1966). Therefore, the applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Act due to his misdemeanor convictions detailed above. Therefore, the application must also be denied for this reason. There is no waiver available for inadmissibility under this section of the Act.

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.