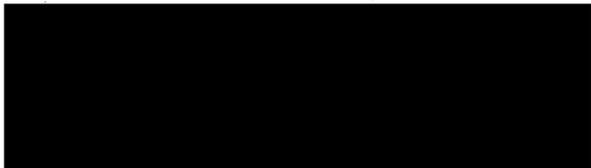


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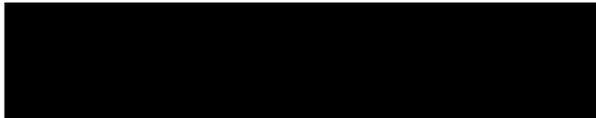
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Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: **APR 06 2007**

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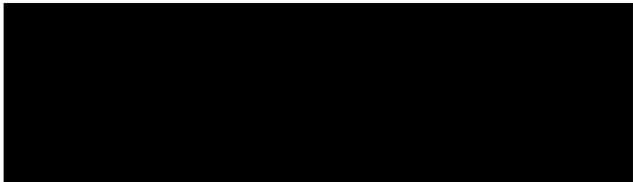
Applicant:



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.

*Cindy N. Gomez*

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 Honduras who is applying for 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 she had continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998; and had been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999.

On appeal, counsel asserts the applicant's 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 designated by the Attorney General 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 Hondurans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that they have been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999. On May 11, 2000, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until July 5, 2001. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest extension valid until July 5, 2007, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite 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).

Along with her initial TPS application, the applicant submitted evidence to show that she had been present in the United States since August 24, 2004.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit any evidence to establish her continuous residence since December 30, 1998, and continuous physical presence since January 5, 1999, in the United States, and denied the application on February 22, 2006.

On appeal, counsel states that the applicant is eligible for TPS because of her presence in the United States since August 24, 2004, which she states was during the most recent redesignation period for Hondurans. Counsel also states that the TPS application should be granted based upon humanitarian reasons, and to assure family unity.

Contrary to counsel's assertions, while regulations may allow children of aliens who are TPS-eligible to file their applications after the initial registration period had closed, these regulations do not relax the requirements for eligibility for TPS as detailed in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(a) through (e).

The record of proceeding shows that the applicant (a minor) was apprehended along with her brother [REDACTED] by the United States Border Patrol while entering the United States illegally at or near Eagle Pass, Texas, on or about August 24, 2004, which is subsequent to the eligibility period. Therefore, she cannot satisfy the continuous residence and continuous physical presence requirements described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). The applicant cannot demonstrate, as is required by statute, that she was present in the United States during the initial registration rather than the redesignation periods.

The record also shows that the applicant was released into the custody of her mother (a TPS registrant) and has subsequently been placed under removal proceedings.

Although counsel argues that the applicant acquired "constructive residence" based upon her mother's residence in the United States, the applicant must submit sufficient independent evidence to demonstrate that she, not her mother, has continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and has been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999. The applicant acquires no derivative status from her mother, nor does "constructive residence" apply under TPS regulations and statute.

Although counsel requests humanitarian relief, claiming the importance of family unity and maternal protection for a child, there are no further humanitarian provisions under the TPS program to provide for such relief. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status 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.