

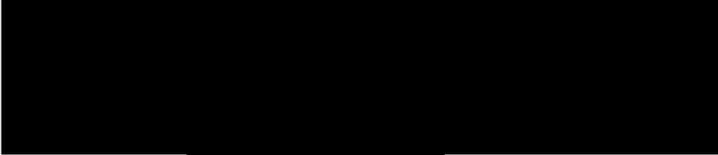


U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 01 192 51712]

OFFICE: Vermont Service Center

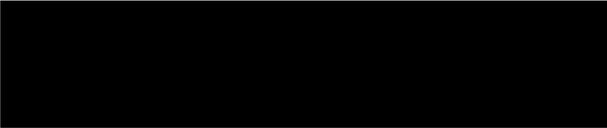
DATE:

AUG 02 2007

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:



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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center. A subsequent appeal was dismissed by the Director, Administrative Appeals Office (AAO). The matter is now before the AAO on a motion to reopen. The motion to reopen will be dismissed.

The applicant claims to be 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 director denied the application because the applicant had failed to establish she resided and was continuously physically present in the United States during the required period.

The appeal from the director's decision was dismissed on March 24, 2003, after the Director of the AAO also concluded that the applicant had failed to establish her eligibility for TPS. On motion to reopen, the applicant reasserts her claim of eligibility for TPS.

A motion to reopen or reconsider must be filed within thirty days of the underlying decision, except that failure to file during this period may be excused at the Service's discretion when the applicant has demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

Whenever a person has the right or is required to do some act within a prescribed period after the service of a notice upon him and the notice is served by mail, three days shall be added to the prescribed period. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b).

The previous decision from the AAO was dated March 24, 2003. Any motion to reopen must have been filed within thirty days after service of the decision. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i). Coupled with three days for mailing, the motion, in this case, should have been filed on or before April 28, 2003. The motion to reopen was received on July 1, 2003.

Counsel for the applicant states that due to lack of time and pressure from the client the motion was erroneously filed with the Vermont Service Center. The explanations provided are not clearly articulated, and are not a reasonable delay that was beyond the control of the applicant. The motion will be dismissed as untimely. Regardless of the applicant's failure to file a timely appeal the AAO would note that the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to overcome the reasons for the initial denial.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. That burden has not been met since the motion to reopen was not filed within the allotted time period. Accordingly, the motion to reopen will be dismissed and the previous decision of the AAO will not be disturbed.

ORDER: The motion to reopen is dismissed. The previous decision of the AAO dated March 24, 2003, is affirmed.