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Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER

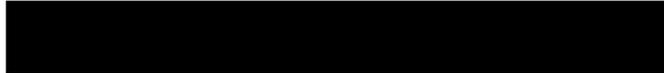
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IN RE:

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.

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, Nebraska 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 determined that the applicant failed to establish she: 1) had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; 2) had been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001; and 3) was eligible for late registration. The director, therefore, denied the application.

The applicant appears to be represented; however, the individual listed, as a representative on appeal is not authorized under 8 C.F.R. 292.1 or 292.2 to represent the applicant. The decision will be furnished only to the applicant.

On appeal, the applicant states that she did not agree with the director's decision and that she has submitted evidence. The applicant also submits evidence in an attempt to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States.

As stated in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, "register" means "to properly file, with the director, a completed application, with proper fee, for Temporary Protected Status during the registration period designated under section 244(b) of the Act."

The record reveals that the applicant did file an initial application for TPS during the initial registration period on August 23, 2001. That application was denied on May 2, 2002, for failure to establish her eligibility for TPS. There is nothing in the record to indicate that the applicant appealed the director's decision.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on September 25, 2002. The director denied this application because it was filed outside of the initial registration period and because the applicant had failed to establish her eligibility for filing under the provisions of late registration. The director also determined that the applicant failed to establish her continuous residence and continuous physical presence during the qualifying period. Since the applicant did properly file an application during the initial registration period, the director erred in her explanation of the basis for denial. While the director found the applicant ineligible for TPS because she had failed to establish eligibility for late registration, the director's decision did not sufficiently explain the entire basis for denial.

The applicant's initial Form I-821 was properly filed on August 23, 2001. That initial application was denied by the director on May 2, 2002. Any Form I-821 application subsequently submitted by the same applicant after an initial application is filed and a decision rendered, must be considered as either a request for annual registration or as a new filing for TPS benefits.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821 on September 25, 2002. Since the initial application was denied on May 2, 2002, the subsequent application cannot be considered as a re-registration. Therefore, this application can only be considered as a late registration.

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 as 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 section 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 conditions described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

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.

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 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 granted until September 9, 2007, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite period.

The initial registration period for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001 through September 9, 2002. The record shows that the applicant filed this application on September 25, 2002.

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). If the qualifying condition or application has expired or been terminated, the individual must file within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of the qualifying condition in order to be considered for the late initial registration. 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(g).

On March 24, 2003, the applicant was provided the opportunity to submit evidence establishing her eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit evidence establishing her nationality and identity, her continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001, to the filing date of the application. The applicant, in response, provided evidence in an attempt to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence during the qualifying period. She did not present evidence of her eligibility for late registration. Therefore, the director denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that she does not agree with the director's decision because she submitted enough evidence. According to the applicant, her daughter was born in the United States, but she does not have employment records or utility bills because she did not have employment authorization and lived with her sister. The applicant also submits evidence in an attempt to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. However, this does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file her TPS application within the initial registration period. The applicant has not 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 conclusion that the applicant failed to establish her eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

The second and third issues in this proceeding are whether the applicant has established her continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

As stated above, the applicant was requested on March 24, 2003 to submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. In response, the applicant submitted the following documentation:

1. Copies of statements from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
2. Copies of a Truth in Savings Disclosure document dated December 28, 2001.
3. Copies of envelopes date-stamped February 23, 2001, April 11 2001 and June (date unknown) 2001.
4. A copy of a State of Indiana Identification card issued on December 31, 2001.

The director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish her qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods and denied the application. On appeal, the applicant submits:

5. A copy of a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Certificate of Live Birth for the applicant's daughter indicating a date of birth of August 17, 1997.
6. A copy of a Certificate of Immunizations showing immunizations on August 17, 1997, September 16, 1997, October 22, 1997, December 17, 1997, February 18, 1998, February 19, 1998, May 18, 1998, November 17, 1998, February 23, 1999, and October 19, 2001.
7. Copies of an employment authorization card issued on September 27, 2001, the applicant's Social Security card and the Social Security card of the applicant's daughter.
8. Statements from [REDACTED]
9. Copies of earnings statements dated April 18, 2002, August 31, 2002, October 26, 2002, and December 7, 2002.

The applicant also resubmits evidence previously provided.

[REDACTED] in both statements, claims that the applicant has been in Huntingburg, Indiana since March 1997 and has attended his church. However, this statement has little evidentiary weight or probative value as it does not provide basic information that is expressly required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(v). Specifically, [REDACTED] does not explain the origin of the information to which he attests, nor does he provide the address where the applicant resided during the period of her involvement with the church. [REDACTED] Service Coordinator, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, Jasper, Indiana, states that the applicant was an English as a Second Language student from January 2001 until June 2001. [REDACTED], the applicant's sister,

indicates that the applicant came to live with her in December 2000 when she moved from Boston, Massachusetts. However, these statements 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 residence or physical presence.

Furthermore, [REDACTED]'s statement conflicts with the statements from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. These discrepancies have not been satisfactorily explained. Doubt cast on any aspect of the applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. It is incumbent upon the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth, in fact, lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1988).

The birth certificate of the applicant's daughter indicates that she was present in the United States on August 17, 1997, and, based on the immunization records, it appears that the applicant may have been present in the United States on those dates. However, these documents are all dated prior to the qualifying period and are therefore of little or no probative value. One of the date-stamped envelopes indicates a date of February 23, 2001, and is the earliest date presented as evidence of the applicant's presence in the United States during the requisite period. Therefore, this evidence is also of little or no probative value.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying residence since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001 to the filing date of the TPS application. She has, therefore, failed to establish that she has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status on these grounds will also be affirmed.

Beyond the director's decision, it is noted that although the applicant has submitted a copy of a birth certificate with English translation, it was not accompanied by photo identification. The applicant has also failed to provide a passport or any national identity document from her country of origin bearing photo and/or fingerprint to establish her nationality and identity. Therefore, the application must be denied on this basis as well.

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.