



U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE: [REDACTED]  
[EAC 06 353 79055]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **AUG 31 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: 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 Director, Vermont Service Center (VSC), denied the application. The application is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of El Salvador who seeks 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 her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that she is eligible for TPS as the spouse of a TPS registrant.

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.

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 Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001.

The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest extension valid until March 9, 2009, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period she fell within at least one of the four provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

The burden of proof is on 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).

On January 8, 2007, the director found that the applicant qualified for late registration, but requested that the applicant submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The applicant did not respond to the director's request. The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence, and denied the application on February 26, 2007.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that she is eligible for late registration because she is the spouse of a TPS registrant and submits additional documentation relating to her continuous residence and physical presence. The record reflects that the applicant is the spouse of an alien who is currently eligible to be a TPS registrant. She is, therefore, eligible to file a late application for TPS under 8 C.F.R. 244.2(f)(2)(iv).

The late registration provisions, however, do not relax the other eligibility requirements for TPS. The spouse of a TPS-eligible registrant who files a late initial application must still meet the continuous residence and continuous physical presence requirements under I.N.A. § 244(c)(1)(A)(i) and (ii) and 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c).

The record reflects that the applicant did not enter the United States until December 8, 2001 - more than ten months after the cut-off date for the continuous residence and physical presence requirements for Salvadoran TPS. The applicant indicated on her application that she last entered the United States as a visitor on December 8, 2001, and submitted a Form I-94 to corroborate her date of entry. The submitted documents only show physical presence since December 8, 2001. The applicant is therefore unable to establish her qualifying continuous residence or continuous physical presence in the United States and has 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 TPS on these grounds will be affirmed.

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. Here, the applicant has not met this burden.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.