

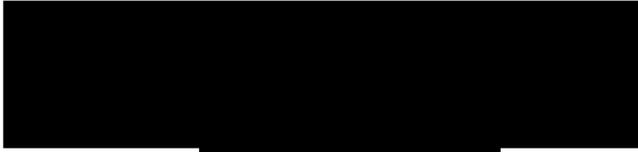
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U.S. Citizenship  
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Services

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DEC 07 2007

FILE:



Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

[EAC 06 278 71243]

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 application was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a citizen of Honduras 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 he: 1) had continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998; 2) had been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999; and 3) was eligible for late registration. The director also determined that the applicant failed to provide an identity document. The director, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that he has been in the United States since 1998 and has provided all of the requested evidence. The applicant also submits evidence in an attempt to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period.

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 Hondurans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that they have been continuously physically present 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 January 5, 2009, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite period.

The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999 to August 20, 1999. The record shows that the applicant filed this application on July 5, 2006.

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 his 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 January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999, he 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 November 24, 2006, the applicant was provided the opportunity to submit evidence establishing his 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 his nationality and identity, his continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998 and his continuous physical presence in the United States from January 5, 1999 to the date of filing the

application. The director determined that the applicant failed to respond to the notice. Therefore, the director denied the application. However, CIS records indicate that in response, the applicant provided a copy of his Honduran passport and provided evidence in an attempt to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence during the qualifying period. That evidence will be discussed below. The applicant did not present evidence of his eligibility for late registration.

On appeal, the applicant states that he entered the United States in 1998 and has provided all of the requested evidence. The applicant also submits evidence in an attempt to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period. However, this does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his TPS application within the initial registration period. Consequently, the director's conclusion that the applicant failed to establish his eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

The remaining issues in this proceeding are whether the applicant has established his continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999, and whether the applicant has submitted an identity document.

As stated above, the applicant was requested on November 24, 2006 to submit evidence establishing his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. In response, the applicant submitted the following documentation:

1. A copy of a Honduran passport.
2. Copies of receipts from various retail stores.
3. Copies of Rent-A-Center payment receipts dated December 30, 2006.
4. Copies of money transfer receipts dated February 20, 1999, June 9, 2005, July 10, 2005, and January 29, 2007.
5. Copies of money order receipts dated March 2, 1999, June 21, 1998, September 20, 1998, June 28, 1999, September 3, 1999, December 13, 1999, January 30, 2001, April 1, 2001, June 29, 2001, July 30, 2001, June 9, 2005, October 10, 2005, February 6, 2006, and receipts with illegible dates.

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

6. Copies of money order receipts dated June 1, 2000, April 21, 2000, February 16, 2000, May 25, 2000, June 10, 2000, July 19, 2000, April 28, 2001, July 23, 2003, August 6, 2003, December 4, 2003, January 5, 2004, June 8, 2004, November 28, 2004, and September 7, 2006.
7. Copies of money transfer receipts dated September 9, 2004, June 24, 2005, August 7, 2005, September 8, 2005, October 7, 2005, December 4, 2005, January 22, 2006, June 9, 2006, and September 29, 2006.
8. Copies of Rent-A-Center payment receipts dated June 13, 2005, November 5, 2005,

June 27, 2006, and February 8, 2007.

9. Copies of a State of Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Course Completion Receipt dated March 28, 2005, and an unsigned State of Florida Driver License dated October 20, 2006.

The passport establishes the applicant's nationality and identity. The various retail store and money order receipts do not bear the applicant's name or indicate any connection to the applicant. Therefore, the receipts are of no probative value. One of the money transfer receipts indicates a date of February 20, 1999, and is the earliest date presented, on appeal, as evidence of the applicant's presence in the United States during the requisite period. Therefore, the evidence presented is of little or no probative value.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. He has, therefore, failed to establish that he 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 decision of the director, it is noted that the applicant provided a photocopy of the first page of his passport in an attempt to establish his nationality and his identification. However, the passport was signed by the applicant and issued in Honduras on September 11, 2003. This is further evidence that the applicant has not met the continuous residence and physical presence criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c).

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.