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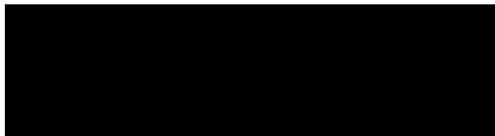
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000  
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE: [REDACTED] Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER  
[WAC 05 295 70211]

Date: JUN 04 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 of the Deputy Chief Counsel, Kansas City, Missouri. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

  
Robert P. Wiemann, Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application was denied by the Director, California Service Center (CSC), and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant claims to be a native and 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 record reveals that the applicant was convicted of Assault III and Trespassing on February 25, 2003, and Assault III on March 19, 1994.

The applicant filed a first TPS application on July 17, 2001, after the initial registration period had expired, with the Nebraska Service Center (NSC) under receipt number LIN 01 230 53067. The NSC director denied that application on October 5, 2005, November 16, 2001, because the applicant was not eligible for TPS under section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) due to his conviction of a felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States. After a review of the record, the Chief, AAO, concurs with the director's denial decision.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on July 22, 2005. The CSC director denied the TPS application on October 5, 2005, because the applicant's initial TPS application had been denied and the applicant was not eligible to apply for re-registration for TPS. The applicant, through counsel, filed his current appeal from that decision on October 31, 2005.

On appeal, counsel submits a brief statement and additional documentation.

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.
- (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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to Hondurans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and continuous physical presence since January 5, 1999. The initial registration period for Honduras was from January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999. The record reveals that the applicant filed the current application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on July 22, 2005, more than five years and eleven months after the initial registration period had ended.

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

An alien shall not be eligible for temporary protected status under this section if the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security finds that the alien has been convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States. See Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a).

8 C.F.R. § 244.1 defines “felony” and “misdemeanor:”

*Felony* means a crime committed in the United States, punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, except: When the offense is defined by the State as a misdemeanor and the sentence actually imposed is one year or less regardless of the term such alien actually served. Under this exception for purposes of section 244 of the Act, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor.

*Misdemeanor* means a crime committed in the United States, either

- (1) Punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, or

(2) A crime treated as a misdemeanor under the term "felony" of this section.

For purposes of this definition, any crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of five days or less shall not be considered a misdemeanor.

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 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 appeal, counsel asserts that the application was erroneously denied because it was filed as an initial TPS application, not as an application for re-registration, and that the applicant qualifies for late registration because he is currently in removal proceedings.

Removal proceedings against the applicant were not initiated until December 2004, more than five years after the initial registration period had ended. Therefore, the applicant does not qualify for late registration under the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2 (f) and (g). Furthermore, the applicant is ineligible for TPS due to his having been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanor offenses, detailed above. 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant has failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his nationality and identity, as required under the provisions of 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(1). Therefore, the application must also be denied for this reason.

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 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.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.