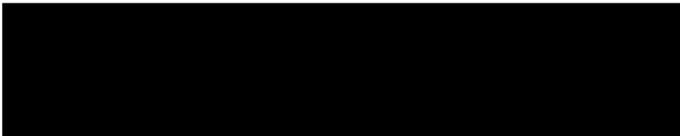




U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

PUBLIC COPY

identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy



ML

FILE: [REDACTED] OFFICE: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER DATE: MAY 02 2007
[WAC 05 146 76830]

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.


for Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, California 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 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 denied the application because the applicant had failed to establish that he had continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and had been continuously physically present since January 5, 1999.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement and additional evidence.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an alien who is a national of a foreign state 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 § 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.

The term *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.

The term *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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to Hondurans and Nicaraguans 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 July 5, 2007, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

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 record shows that the applicant filed his initial TPS application on February 23, 2005. The director reviewed the record of proceeding and determined that the applicant had failed to establish continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and continuous physical presence since January 5, 1999. He noted that the applicant indicated on his TPS application that he entered the United States on November 20, 2004. The director, therefore, denied the application on May 10, 2006.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he is eligible for TPS under the late initial registration because his mother [REDACTED] has been granted TPS. He submits a copy of [REDACTED] Employment Authorization Card (category A12) and a copy of Form I-797C, Notice of Action, dated April 4, 2000, advising [REDACTED] that she had been granted TPS. The applicant further asserts that the time of his presence in the United States should not be an issue since he is considered a child of a TPS registrant.

The applicant's assertions on appeal are without merit. While regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2)(iv) allow children of aliens who are TPS-eligible to file applications after the initial registration period had closed, these regulations do not relax the requirements for eligibility for TPS. According to 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, an alien may in the discretion of the director be granted TPS if the alien establishes that he or she meets all the requirements listed in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and subparagraph (f)(1), or (f)(2). The record, in this case, indicates that the applicant's date of entry into the United States was November 20, 2004.

The applicant was not present in the United States during the period required to establish eligibility for TPS. Therefore, he could not have met the criteria for continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and continuous physical presence since January 5, 1999. 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the TPS application 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. The applicant has failed to meet this burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.