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U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE:   
[EAC 02 251 51551]

Office: Vermont Service Center

Date: **MAY 11 2007**

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:

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**DISCUSSION:** The applicant's TPS was withdrawn by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant claims to be a citizen of El Salvador who was granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) on July 15, 2003, under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

The director withdrew the applicant's status because the applicant had failed to establish he had: 1) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; and, 2) been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 244.14, Withdrawal of Temporary Protected Status, states:

- (a) Authority of the director. The director may withdraw the status of an alien granted Temporary Protected Status under section 244 of the Act at any time upon the occurrence of any of the following:
  - (1) The alien was not in fact eligible at the time such was granted, or at any time thereafter becomes ineligible for such status;
  - (2) The alien has not remained continuously present in the United States from the date the alien was first granted TPS;
  - (3) The alien fails without good cause to register with the Attorney General annually within thirty days before the end of each 12-month period after the granting of TPS.

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 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.

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 El Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest extension valid until September 9, 2007, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

On appeal the applicant asserts that his father was ill and he had to return to El Salvador.

The record reveals that on May 1, 2002, the applicant was apprehended entering the United States illegally. By the applicant's own admission he traveled out of the United States without permission, and was absent from the United States for an undetermined time. On appeal the applicant claims that his father was "very ill," and subsequently passed away. However, the applicant failed to provide any evidence of his assertions on appeal, nor has the applicant provided any evidence of the duration of his absence. Going on record without supporting documentary evidence is not sufficient for purposes of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *Matter of Soffici*, 22 I&N Dec. 158, 165 (Comm. 1998) (citing *Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972)).

The applicant has failed to establish his qualifying continuous residence or continuous physical presence in the United States during the required period. He has, thereby, failed to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Therefore, the director's decision to withdraw the applicant's TPS will be affirmed. 8 C.F.R. § 244.14(a)(1).

The AAO would also note that the applicant has an outstanding removal order.

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.