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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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FILE: [REDACTED] Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER Date: **MAY 31 2007**
[WAC 05 363 70139]

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Wiemann".

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 citizen of El Salvador 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 failed to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States in order to qualify under the provisions of TPS late registration.

On appeal, the applicant asserts her eligibility for TPS and submits some evidence in an attempt to establish her claim.

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, 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 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. On July 9, 2002, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until September 9, 2003. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity until September 9, 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).

On July 19, 2006, the director requested the applicant to submit evidence to establish her eligibility for TPS late registration. The director also requested the applicant to submit evidence to establish her continuous residence since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. In addition, the applicant was requested to submit evidence to establish her nationality/identity. In response, the applicant submitted some evidence in support of her claim of eligibility. On August 16, 2006, 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 under the TPS late registration provisions because her father is an eligible TPS registrant. In addition, the applicant submits the following copies of evidence in an attempt to

establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States: a letter dated July 25, 2006, from Kaiser Permanente, stating that the applicant has received insurance from August 1, 2002; her immunization record reflecting vaccinations dated December 29, 2003 to February 2, 2006; her school grade reports from Columbus Ave Elementary School for the school years: 2003- 2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006; a letter from En El Camino dated August 29, 2006, stating that the applicant and her family have attended services since January 2005; an affidavit of witness dated July 26, 2006, from [REDACTED] stating that he has known the applicant in the United States since September 2000; and, an affidavit of witness dated July 26, 2006, from [REDACTED] stating that she has known the applicant since September 2000. The applicant also submits a letter dated November 13, 2006, from [REDACTED] Churches of Restoration, San Fernando Valley, California, stating that the applicant has been a member of the congregation since January 2001.

The applicant submits, on appeal, copies of documentation that post-dates the beginning of the requisite time periods for continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The church letter from [REDACTED] has little evidentiary weight or probative value as it does not provide basic information that is expressly required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(v). Specifically, the pastor does not explain the origin of the information to which he attests, nor does he provide the address where the applicant resided during the period of his involvement with the church.

The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b). It is determined that the documentation submitted by the applicant is not sufficient to establish that she satisfies the continuous residence and continuous physical presence requirements described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the 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 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.