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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

ML



FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 06 341 73698]

OFFICE: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: NOV 02 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: 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 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 failed to establish that he was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods.

On appeal, the applicant asserts his claim of eligibility for 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 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.

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 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, through August 20, 1999. The record reveals that the applicant filed his application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on September 6, 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 proceedings 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 he fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

On November 17, 2006, the director requested the applicant submit evidence to establish his eligibility for TPS. In response to the director's request for evidence, the applicant submitted documents in an attempt to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical residence. The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish that he was eligible for late registration and denied the application on February 23, 2007.

On appeal, the applicant reasserts his claim of eligibility for TPS.

The applicant submitted evidence in an attempt to establish his qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his Application for Temporary Protected Status within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that he has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's conclusion that the applicant had failed to establish his eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

The second issue in this proceeding is 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.

The applicant was requested on November 17, 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 letter from Miriam Lizzeth Aguilar in which he stated that he has known the applicant since 1999;
2. A letter from [REDACTED] in which she stated that she has known the applicant since January of 1999;
3. A letter from Bishop [REDACTED] from Congregational Holiness Church, Inc. in which he stated that the applicant has been a member of the congregation since January of 1999;
4. A letter from [REDACTED] in which she stated that she employed the applicant to distribute newspapers for El Ojo Latino and has known him since March of 1998; and,
5. A letter from Maria Aguirre in which he stated that he has known the applicant since March of 1999.

The director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods and denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant reasserts his claim of eligibility for TPS, and submits the following documentation:

6. A copy of a letter addressed to the applicant from the Internal Revenue Service and dated April 20, 2006.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. Although the individuals state in their letters listed above that they have known the applicant to be present in the United States since 1998, there has been no corroborative evidence to substantiate their assertions. The applicant claims to have been present in the United States since February of 1998. It is reasonable to expect that he would have some type of contemporaneous evidence to support these assertions; however, no such evidence has been provided. Without corroborative evidence, the letters do not substantiate clear and convincing evidence of the applicant's continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States.

The letter from the Internal Revenue Service to the applicant is dated subsequent to the requisite time period; and therefore, cannot be used to establish the applicant's residence or presence in the United States, as required. The applicant has 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 TPS on these grounds will also be affirmed.

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.