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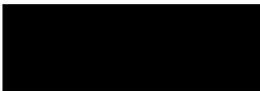
U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
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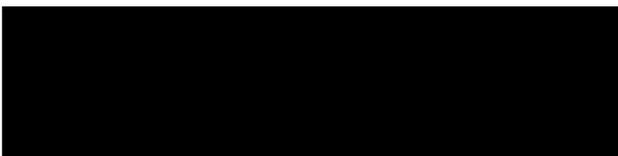
OFFICE: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

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IN RE:

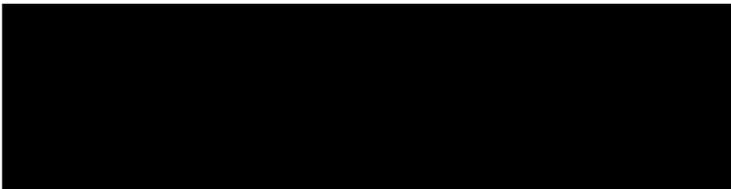
Applicant:



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.

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 sustained and the application will be approved.

The applicant is a native and 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 had failed to respond to a request to submit evidence to establish that she: (1) was eligible for late registration; and (2) had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and had been continuously physically present since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, counsel asserts that his office never received the Notice of Intent to Deny due to incomplete address and it is likely that it was merely a clerical/processing error; therefore, no fault should be given to the applicant. He submits additional evidence, including evidence previously furnished and contained in the record.

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.

- (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 condition described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

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 El Salvadorans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that they have been continuously physically present 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, with the latest extension valid until March 9, 2009, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The initial registration period for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record shows that the applicant filed her initial application on September 7, 2005.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period from March 9, 2001 through September 9, 2002, she fell within the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) (listed above).

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 director maintained that a Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID) dated February 5, 2006, was issued requesting that the applicant provide additional evidence, that the records indicate that the applicant failed to submit a response, and that the applicant has still not satisfied eligibility for late registration, continuous residence, and continuous physical presence during the requisite period. It is noted, however, that the director's NOID is not contained in the record of proceeding, nor is there evidence that the NOID was, in fact, mailed to the applicant as indicated by the director.

A review of the record of proceeding and CIS database indicates that on November 20, 1995, the applicant filed Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Deportation. On July 26, 2005, the applicant appeared for an interview at the Los Angeles Asylum Office regarding her asylum application. On August 9, 2005, the applicant was advised that her claim for asylum had not been granted and the application had been

referred to an immigration judge for adjudication in removal proceedings. Form I-862, Notice to Appear, was issued on August 9, 2005. In removal proceedings held in Los Angeles, California, on September 13, 2005, the immigration judge administratively closed removal proceedings based on the filing of a TPS application by the applicant.

The record in this case indicates that during the initial registration period, the applicant had an application for asylum that was pending or subject to further review, and that the application remained pending when she filed her TPS application on September 7, 2005. Accordingly, the applicant has established that she has met the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2)(ii).

Additionally, the evidence contained in the record of proceeding is sufficient to establish that the applicant has met the continuous residence and continuous physical presence requirements described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c).

Accordingly, the director's decision will be withdrawn and the application will be approved.

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 met this burden.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained and the application is approved.