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

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FILE:



Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **SEP 24 2007**

[EAC 07 011 80846]

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.

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

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The Director, Vermont Service Center (VSC), denied the application. The application is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of El Salvador who seeks 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 she was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that she did not initially apply for TPS because she was out of status and was afraid that, if she did apply, she would be deported. The applicant submits previously submitted documents.

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 as 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 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 Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001.

The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. 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.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period she fell within at least one of the four provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

The burden of proof is on 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 reflects that the applicant filed her initial TPS application on September 28, 2006-four years after the close of the initial registration period for Salvadorans. The only documents she submitted in support of her application were her birth certificate, without a corresponding translation, and, a copy of her passport.

On February 27, 2007, the director requested that the applicant submit evidence establishing her eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The director also requested that the applicant submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. In response, the applicant submitted the following:

1. an unnotarized letter from Denis Ruiz, a United States citizen who knows the applicant;

2. an unnotarized letter from [REDACTED] a United States citizen who knows the applicant because they worked together;
3. an unnotarized letter from [REDACTED], General Superintendent of Congressional Holiness Church, Inc.;
4. an unnotarized letter from [REDACTED], a United States citizen who knows the applicant; and,
5. 2001-2006 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Forms 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns.

On April 2, 2007, the director denied the application, finding that the applicant had failed to establish she was eligible for late registration and had failed to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence. On appeal, the applicant states that she needs to legalize her status in order to support her family and submits her previously submitted IRS tax returns.

All of the documents submitted relate to the applicant's continuous residence and physical presence. The applicant did not submit any evidence to establish that she was eligible for late registration. None of the documentation overcomes the applicant's failure to file her TPS application within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that she has met any of the criteria for late registration described in the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The director's conclusion that the applicant had failed to establish her eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

Furthermore, the evidence submitted by the applicant fails to establish her qualifying residence and continuous physical presence. The letter from [REDACTED] has little probative value and can be given little evidentiary weight 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 her involvement with the church. It is further noted that the pastor did not indicate the location of his church, or verify that the church was even located inside the United States. The other three letters can also be given little evidentiary weight as they are not sworn to, do not provide the affiants' addresses, dates and places of birth, relationship to the applicant, or full information and/or complete details relating to the applicant's continuous residence and continuous physical presence, as required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(vi). The tax returns submitted by the applicant can be given little weight as they are not accompanied by IRS Form W-2, Wage & Tax Statements or certification of filing with the Federal, state or local government, as required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(i). The applicant has not submitted sufficient credible evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence and her continuous physical presence in the United States. She has, therefore, failed to establish that she has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). The director's decision to deny the application for TPS on these grounds will also 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 cited 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.