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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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MJ



FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: OCT 02 2008

[WAC 08 202 51148, appeal]

[WAC 02 167 53944]

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 California Service Center. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. 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 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 provide a final court disposition for his arrest on November 25, 2003 for driving without a license and had failed to provide evidence of nationality.

On appeal, the applicant states:

I am appealing the decision to deny my TPS because I am a citizen of El Salvador. Unfortunately, I have been having problems obtaining proof of my nationality because I do not have any relatives living in El Salvador any more. I have been able to retrieve my birth certificate, but the Salvadoran consulate will not issue my passport until they have had time to verify the validity of my birth certificate.

Counsel forwards a copy of the applicant's Republic of El Salvador passport issued on July 25, 2008, thereby overcoming the director's determination concerning his nationality. Counsel argues the applicant remains eligible for TPS.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant who is a national of a foreign state is eligible for TPS if the 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 that 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.

An alien shall not be eligible for temporary protected status under this section if the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security finds that the alien has been convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States. Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a).

The regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.1(3) define “felony” and “misdemeanor” as:

Felony means a crime committed in the United States, punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, except: When the offense is defined by the State as a misdemeanor and the sentence actually imposed is one year or less regardless of the term such alien actually served. Under this exception for purposes of section 244 of the Act, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor.

Misdemeanor means a crime committed in the United States, either

- (1) Punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, or
- (2) A crime treated as a misdemeanor under the term "felony" of this section.

For purposes of this definition, any crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of five days or less shall not be considered a misdemeanor.

The record reflects the following offenses:

- (1) On February 24, 2004, the applicant was convicted by a Judge in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, of an intentional and knowing violation of a protective order, a misdemeanor. (Case Number [REDACTED])

- (2) The applicant's Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint results report shows that on November 11, 2003, the applicant was arrested by the Police Department in Los Angeles and charged with driving without a license. The final disposition of this arrest is unknown.

The director's March 7, 2008 Notice of Intent to Deny specifically requested the applicant submit a court disposition for Item # 2 listed above, however, the applicant has not submitted that document. Accordingly, he is ineligible for TPS because of his failure to provide information necessary for the adjudication of his application. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a).

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 failed to meet this burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.