U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. A3042.
Washington, DC 20529

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: Texas Service Center Date: OCT 28 2004

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.

for Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

identifying data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

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DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Texas 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 failed to establish she was eligible for late registration.

On appeal, the applicant asserts her claim of eligibility for TPS and submits evidence in support of her claim.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant 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 § 244.3;

(e) Is not ineligible under § 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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El 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. The record reveals that the applicant filed her initial application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on September 27, 2002.

An application or petition received in a Service office shall be stamped to show the time and date of actual receipt and shall be regarded as properly filed when so stamped, if it is signed and executed and the required filing fee is attached or a waiver of the filing fee is granted. An application or petition which is not properly signed or is submitted with the wrong filing fee shall be rejected as improperly filed. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i).

The applicant's first attempt to file an application for TPS was improperly filed because she did not include the proper fee and, therefore, was rejected on September 11, 2002. The applicant subsequently re-submitted her application, which was received by CIS on September 27, 2002.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, he or she was either in a valid immigration status, had an application pending for relief from removal, was a parolee, or was the spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant, and had filed an application for late registration within 60 days of the expiration or termination of the conditions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2).

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 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 2, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit certified copies of her arrest records, indictments, and all final court dispositions for all her arrests, convictions, or confinements. In response, the applicant submitted court dispositions regarding her arrest by the De Kalb County Police Department on June 21, 2001, for a simple battery. The applicant submitted some evidence in an attempt to establish her continuous physical presence and continuous residence in the United States; however, she did not submit any evidence to establish her eligibility for late registration.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish she was eligible for late registration and denied the application on August 9, 2003. On appeal, the applicant asserts that she did not file a late initial application for TPS. She states that filed her TPS application on August 23, 2003[2]; however, the application was returned

to her because it did not have the complete fee. She further explains that she returned the application with the correct fee along with the envelope in order for the application to be considered filed on August 23, 2002.

In accordance with CIS regulations, an application or petition which is not properly signed or is submitted with the wrong filing fee shall be rejected as improperly filed. A review of the record reflects that her initial application for TPS was rejected on September 11, 2002, because the applicant did not submit the proper filing fee. The applicant subsequently re-submitted her application, which was received by CIS on September 27, 2002, after the initial registration period had closed. Therefore, her application was considered as a late registration and subject to the conditions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2).

On appeal, the applicant submits evidence in an attempt to establish her qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States. However, she has not submitted <u>any</u> evidence to establish that she has met <u>any</u> of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS will 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.