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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE:

[REDACTED]
[LIN 03 043 52646]

Office: Nebraska Service Center

Date: MAR 01 2005

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.

Cindy M. Gomez fo

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Nebraska 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 he was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish his qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods, or his date of entry into the United States. In addition, the director found that the applicant failed to submit photo identification.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement and additional evidence.

As stated in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, "register" means "to properly file, with the director, a completed application, with proper fee, for Temporary Protected Status during the registration period designated under section 244(b) of the Act."

The record reveals that the applicant did file an initial application for TPS during the initial registration period. That application was denied on January 25, 2003 for failure to respond to a request to be fingerprinted. Since the application was denied due to abandonment there was no appeal available; however, the applicant could have filed a request for a motion to reopen within 30 days from the date of the denial. The applicant did not file a motion to reopen during the requisite timeframe.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on November 15, 2002. The director denied this second application on June 30, 2003, because the applicant failed to establish he was eligible for late registration and because he had failed to establish that he: 1) entered the United States prior to February 13, 2001; 2) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; and 3) been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

Any Form I-821 application subsequently submitted by the same applicant after an initial application is filed and a decision rendered, must be considered as either a request for annual registration or as a new filing for TPS benefits.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821 on November 15, 2002. Since the initial application was denied on January 25, 2003, the subsequent application cannot be considered as a re-registration. Therefore, this application can only be considered as a late registration.

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 is eligible for temporary protected status 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.

The phrase brief, casual, and innocent absence, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means a departure from the United States that satisfies the following criteria:

- (1) Each such absence was of short duration and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose(s) for the absence;
- (2) The absence was not the result of an order of deportation, an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure without the institution of deportation proceedings; and
- (3) The purposes for the absence from the United States or actions while outside of the United States were not contrary to law.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence 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. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity until March 9, 2005, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period. The record reveals that the applicant filed this application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on November 15, 2002.

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).

The first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The record of proceedings confirms that the applicant filed this 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 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 he 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).

On May 2, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit evidence establishing his qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States, and photo identification. The applicant failed to respond.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish he was eligible for late registration and denied the application on June 30, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant states that he was not aware that he needed to send additional evidence and that he never received the request for evidence.

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 February 13, 2001, or his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

As stated above, the applicant was requested on May 2, 2003, to submit evidence establishing his qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States. The applicant failed to respond to the Notice of Intent to Deny.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his eligibility for TPS and denied the application on June 30, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant states that he thinks that the request for evidence got lost in the mail. The applicant submits the following documentation:

1. A copy of his birth certificate with English translation;
2. A copy of his cedula from El Salvador;
3. Copies of his earnings statements from Cossetta Inc., for 2001;
4. A copy of an Account Summary from AT&T dated November 2, 2001; and,
5. A copy of Form I-797C, Abandonment Denial Notice dated January 25, 2003.

While the applicant has submitted some evidence of his residence and physical presence in the United States during 2001 and 2003, the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his continuous residence or continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite period. The applicant has presented no evidence for the year 2002, and the only evidence for 2003 is detailed in #5 above. He has, therefore, 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 this ground will also be affirmed.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient credible evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, or his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. He has, therefore, 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.

It is noted that the applicant submitted photo identification in the form of his "cedula" from El Salvador. Thus, this reason for the director's denial has been overcome.

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.