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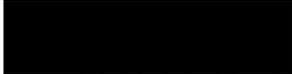
U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: MAR 07 2005

[WAC 02 106 53243]

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.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application was denied by the Director, California Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The matter will be remanded for further consideration and action.

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 after determining that the applicant had abandoned his application by failing to respond to a request for evidence.

If all requested initial evidence and requested additional evidence is not submitted by the required date, the application or petition shall be considered abandoned and, accordingly, shall be denied. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(13). A denial due to abandonment may not be appealed, but an applicant or petitioner may file a motion to reopen. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(15).

The record reveals that the applicant filed his application on February 4, 2002. On July 18, 2002, the applicant was requested to submit evidence of identity and nationality additional evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. The applicant did not respond to the notice.

On January 28, 2003, the applicant reported an address change to Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). On February 25, 2003, the applicant was again requested to provide evidence of identity and nationality and evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time frames. The notice was mailed to the applicant at his updated address, but the record does not contain a response from the applicant. Therefore, the director concluded that the applicant had abandoned his application and issued a Notice of Denial on August 25, 2003. The director advised the applicant that he could file an appeal with the Administrative Appeals Office within 33 days of the date of issuance of the notice.

The applicant responded to the Notice of Decision on April 14, 2004. The applicant submitted additional evidence in an attempt to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time frames. It is noted that the applicant's response to the Notice of Decision was received at the California Service Center almost eight months after the date of issuance of the director's decision.

The director erroneously accepted the applicant's response as an appeal instead of a motion to reopen and forwarded the file to the AAO. However, as the director's decision was based on abandonment, the AAO has no jurisdiction over this case. Therefore, the matter will be remanded and the director shall consider the applicant's response as a motion to reopen.

As always in these proceedings, the burden of proof rests solely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361.

**ORDER:** The matter is remanded for further action consistent with the above and entry of a new decision.