



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 06 350 82271]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **AUG 24 2007**

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 Vermont 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, Vermont 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 Honduras who is applying for 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 not established that he had continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998 and that he had been continuously physically present in this country since January 5, 1999. The director also found that the applicant failed to establish he was eligible for late initial registration.

On appeal, the applicant states that he has not accumulated many documents since he came to the United States but that the affidavits of friends can confirm his continuous presence since 1998.

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 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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to Hondurans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that they have been continuously physically present since January 5, 1999.

The applicant submits four affidavits from friends and acquaintances who aver that he has been in the United States since 1998. Without corroborative evidence, affidavits from acquaintances and friends do not substantiate clear and convincing evidence of an applicant's residence in the United States. Furthermore, the record contains a copy of the applicant's Republic of Honduras passport. The passport was issued to him in Honduras on March 25, 2004. Therefore, he could not have been in continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998 until March 25, 2004, the date his passport was issued to him abroad. Consequently, it is determined that the applicant has not established his continuous residence and continuous physical presence during the required time period. 8 C.F.R. § 244.2 (b) and (c). Therefore, the director's decision is affirmed for these reasons.

The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999, through August 20, 1999. The record shows that the applicant filed his application with Citizenship and Immigration Services on September 15, 2006.

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

On November 21, 2006, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration as set forth in the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant did not respond to the request.

On appeal, the applicant submitted evidence in an attempt to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his Application for Temporary Protected Status within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that he has met any of the criteria for late registration described in the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS is 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.



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ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.