



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

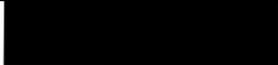
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FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: JUN 01 2007

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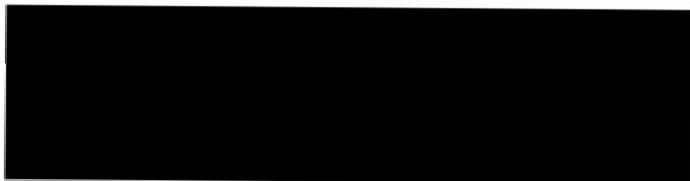
IN RE:

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 office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The applicant's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was withdrawn and the re-registration application was denied by the Director, California Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant claims to be a native and citizen of El Salvador who was granted TPS on July 20, 2002. The director subsequently withdrew the applicant's status and denied his re-registration application on July 7, 2006, when it was determined that the applicant was convicted of four misdemeanors committed in the United States.

On appeal, counsel does not dispute the four convictions but argues that a no "operator's license" offense in North Carolina is not a misdemeanor; it is a traffic infraction and that therefore, the applicant is 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 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 in the General Court of Justice of Wake County of the State of North Carolina:

- (1) On August 17, 2000, the applicant was convicted of misdemeanor larceny.
- (2) On June 21, 2002, the applicant was convicted of having no operator’s license and driving while intoxicated. Both charges are misdemeanors.
- (3) On May 31, 2005, the applicant was convicted of having no operator’s license, a misdemeanor.

On appeal, counsel argues that having no operator’s license is only a traffic infraction and not a misdemeanor in North Carolina. Counsel submits no evidence to support this assertion. It is noted that he assertions of counsel do not constitute evidence. *Matter of Obaigbena*, 19 I&N Dec. 533, 534 (BIA 1988).

It is noted that the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) at Article 2 of Chapter 20 pertaining to Motor Vehicles specify the State's Uniform Driver's License Act. Paragraph 20-7(a) of the NCGS specifies that to drive a motor vehicle on a highway, a person must be licensed to drive the vehicle and must carry the license while driving the vehicle. Paragraph 20-35 of the NCGS provides that a violation of the provisions of Article 2 is a misdemeanor.

The applicant is ineligible for TPS due to his record of four misdemeanors, detailed above. Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a). Consequently, the director's decision to withdraw TPS and deny the re-registration application for this reason is affirmed.

Although not addressed by the director, the applicant has provided insufficient evidence to establish that he is a national or citizen of El Salvador. The record does not contain any photo identification such as a passport or national identity document to establish his nationality. 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(a) and § 244.9(a)(1).

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 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.