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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]
[WAC 06 011 70021]

Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: MAY 01 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:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the California Service Center. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, California 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 was convicted of three misdemeanors committed in the United States.

On appeal, counsel acknowledges that the applicant was issued citations for "No Insurance and No Driver's License." Counsel argues that although these offences are referred to as misdemeanors in the Georgia code, they are both traffic violations and not misdemeanor offences for immigration purposes. Counsel states that the applicant meets the requirements for late initial registration and that he is prima facie eligible for TPS, which is the only relief he has available to avoid removal.

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 that on July 22, 1996, the applicant was convicted of driving under the influence, operating a vehicle with no driver's license and of providing no proof of insurance by a Judge of the Municipal Court in Chamblee, Georgia, three misdemeanors.

On appeal, counsel does not dispute that the applicant's driving under the influence count constitutes a misdemeanor conviction. However, counsel argues that his two convictions for having no proof of insurance and no driver's license are only violations. Counsel argues that although these offences are referred to as misdemeanors in the Georgia code, they are both traffic violations and not misdemeanor offences for immigration purposes.

Counsel failed to provide any corroboration for his assertions. The assertions of counsel do not constitute evidence. *Matter of Obaighena*, 19 I&N Dec. 533, 534 (BIA 1988).

The applicant is ineligible for TPS due to his record of three 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 deny the application for this reason is affirmed.

The record reflects that on November 16, 2006, the applicant was granted voluntary departure from the United States by an Immigration Judge in Dallas, Texas. The judge indicated that his voluntary departure was extended to a period of 30 days from the denial, revocation, or expiration of any TPS status.

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.