



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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[REDACTED]

FILE:

[REDACTED]

Office: California Service Center

Date: NOV 01 2007

[WAC 05 197 70170]

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:

[REDACTED]

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 stated to be a 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 record reveals that the applicant filed an initial TPS application on August 2, 2002, under Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) receipt number WAC 03 021 53993. The director denied that application for abandonment on February 12, 2004, because the applicant failed to report for scheduled fingerprinting. 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(b)(13). A denial due to abandonment may not be appealed; however, an applicant may file a motion to reopen under 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 within 30 days of the denial decision. The record does not reflect that the applicant filed a motion to reopen/reconsider.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on April 15, 2005, under CIS receipt number WAC 05 197 70170, and indicated that she was filing a new initial application for TPS. The director, however, categorized the application as a re-registration application, and denied this application on August 5, 2005, because the applicant's initial TPS application had been denied and the applicant was not eligible to re-register for TPS.

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 TPS 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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001. The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed this initial TPS application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on April 15, 2005.

To qualify for late registration, the 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.

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).

On appeal, counsel asserts that the applicant is eligible for late initial registration for TPS as the spouse of a TPS registrant. Counsel states that the applicant submitted the current application as a late initial registration; however, the director incorrectly categorized the application as a re-registration application.

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.

In this case, the applicant has not previously been granted TPS. Therefore, she is not eligible to re-register for TPS. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed.

It is noted that, as stated by counsel, the record of proceedings reflects that the applicant is married to a TPS registrant. The applicant is, therefore, eligible for late initial registration.

It is further noted that the record of proceedings reveals that the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) fingerprint checks conducted in connection with the re-registration applications show no derogatory results. The record also contains sufficient evidence of the applicant's continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing her initial TPS application.

The application may not be approved at this time, however, as the record does not contain sufficient evidence to establish the applicant's identity and nationality. The applicant has furnished a copy of an El Salvador birth certificate and English translation; however, she has not submitted a national identity document from her country bearing a photograph and or/fingerprint. The birth certificate alone is insufficient to establish the applicant's identity and nationality under the provision of 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(1). Therefore, the application must also be denied for these reasons.

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.