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

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Date:

FILE: [REDACTED] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER
[EAC 07 051 71734]

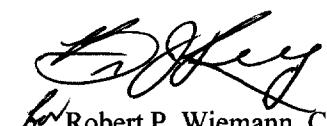
IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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


for 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 (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a citizen of Honduras 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 determined that the applicant failed to establish he: 1) had continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998; 2) had been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999; and 3) was eligible for late registration. The director, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that he has been in the United States since 1997 and has provided all of the requested evidence. The applicant also submits evidence in an attempt to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period.

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 as 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 reparation; 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.

Continuously physically present, as defined in 8 C.F.R. §244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States by virtue of brief, casual, and innocent absences as defined within this section.

Continuously resided, as defined in 8 C.F.R. §244.1, means residing in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous residence in the United States by reason of a brief, casual, and innocent absence as defined within this section or due merely to a brief temporary trip abroad required by emergency or extenuating circumstances outside the control of the alien.

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. On May 11, 2000, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until July 5, 2001. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest extension valid until January 5, 2009, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite period.

The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999 to August 20, 1999. The record shows that the applicant filed this application on November 20, 2006.

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 Citizenship and Immigration Services (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).

The first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The record of proceeding confirms that the applicant filed his application after the initial registration period had closed. To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period from January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999, he fell within the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) (listed above). If the qualifying condition or application has expired or been terminated, the individual must file within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of the qualifying condition in order to be considered for the late initial registration. 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(g).

On December 14, 2006, the applicant was provided the opportunity to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998 and his continuous physical presence in the United States from January 5, 1999 to the date of filing the application. The applicant, in response, provided evidence in an attempt to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence

during the qualifying period. He did not present evidence of his eligibility for late registration. Therefore, the director denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that he has been in the United States since 1997 and has provided all of the requested evidence. The applicant also submits evidence in an attempt to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period. However, this does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his TPS application 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 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

The second and third issues in this proceeding are whether the applicant has established his continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999.

As stated above, the applicant was requested on December 14, 2006 to submit evidence establishing his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. In response, the applicant submitted the following documentation:

1. A copy of his passport.
2. Copies of envelopes date-stamped October 22, 1997, December 18, 1997, March 18, 1998, and July 17, 1998.
3. Copies of money transfer receipts dated June 6, 2003, June 21, 2003, June 27, 2003, July 11, 2003, November 1, 2003, September 18, 2004, October 3, 2004, and December 11, 2006.
4. Copies of a traffic citation payment receipt dated April 14, 2004, hand-written receipts dated December 21, 2000, August 28, 2004, November 7, 2004, and February 5, 2005, and an Application for Vehicle/Vessel Certificate of Title and/or registration dated May 2, 2005.
5. Copies of receipts from various retail stores.
6. Copies of money order receipts dated March 17, 1998, November 22, 1998, and June 19, 2001.

The director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish his qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods and denied the application. On appeal, the applicant submits:

7. Copies of money transfer receipts dated August 18, 2003, August 22, 2003, October 4, 2003, December 22, 2003, January 23, 2004, July 4, 2004, January 30, 2005, February 21, 2005, April 19, 2006, October 8, 2006, March 12, 2007, and a money transfer receipt with an illegible date.
8. Copies of an insurance coverage document processed on March 13, 2006, hand-written receipts dated September 18, 2004 and November 27, 2004, payment

coupons with due dates of May 30, 2005, June 30, 2005, July 30, 2005, August 30, 2005, September 30, 2005, October 3, 2005, November 30, 2005, December 30, 2005, and January 30, 2006, a receipt from [REDACTED] dated November 24, 2005, a [REDACTED] Form dated April 8, 2006, and a [REDACTED] January 2, 2003.

9. Copies of money order receipts dated August 3, 1998, November 27, 1998, August 23, 1999, August 24, 1999, September 20, 1999, October 21, 1999, February 25, 2000, February 18, 2002, June 5, 2002, June 27, 2003, July 21, 2003, and December 3, 2003.

The passport establishes the applicant's nationality and identity. The various retail store money order receipts and date-stamped envelopes do not bear the applicant's name or indicate any connection to the applicant. Therefore, the receipts are of no probative value. The U.S. Postal Service Certified Mail Receipt indicates a date of January 2, 2003, and is the earliest date presented as evidence of the applicant's presence in the United States during the requisite period. Therefore, the evidence presented is of little or no probative value.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. He has, therefore, failed to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status on these grounds will also be 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 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.