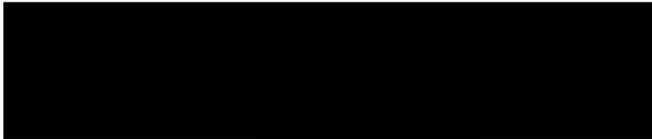


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FILE: [REDACTED] Office: California Service Center Date: **FEB 05 2008**
[WAC 05 213 51877, appeal
[WAC 05 123 70480,
as it relates to SRC 01 178 56342]

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 California Service Center. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The initial application was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center. A subsequent application for re-registration was denied by the Director, California Center, and is currently before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The initial application will be reopened, *sua sponte*, by the Chief, Administrative Appeals Office. The appeal will be sustained and the applications will be approved.

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 record reveals that the applicant filed an initial TPS application on April 12, 2001, under CIS receipt number SRC 01 178 56342. The Director, Texas Service Center, denied that application due to abandonment, on November 14, 2003, 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.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on January 31, 2005, under CIS receipt number WAC 05 123 70480, and indicated that he was re-registering for TPS. The Director, California Service Center, denied the re-registration application on July 1, 2005, because the applicant's initial TPS application had been denied and the applicant was not eligible to apply for re-registration for TPS.

It is noted however, that the applicant did appear for fingerprinting on July 6, 2001, at which time the effort resulted in "unclassifiable" prints, and he was requested to re-appear on August 25, 2001. It is also noted that an FBI fingerprint check conducted in connection with the re-registration application shows no derogatory information. Therefore, the director should not have denied the application for abandonment.

The record contains sufficient evidence to establish the applicant's eligibility for TPS and does not reflect any grounds that would bar the applicant from receiving TPS; the record of proceedings reveals that the fingerprints are cleared. The record contains sufficient evidence to establish the applicant's identity and nationality, his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and ample evidence of his continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing his initial application. The record of proceedings contains a national identification photo ID. Therefore, the director's decision will be withdrawn, and the initial application will be approved.

The director's denial of the application for re-registration or renewal is dependent upon the adjudication of the initial application. Since the initial application is being approved, the appeal from the denial of the re-registration will be sustained and that application will also be approved.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361. The applicant has sustained that burden.

ORDER: The application is reopened and the director's denial of the initial application is withdrawn. The initial application and the re-registration application are both approved. The appeal is sustained.