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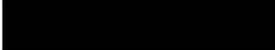


U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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FILE:



Office: Vermont Service Center Date: MAR 19 2008

[EAC 06 324 71482]

INRE:

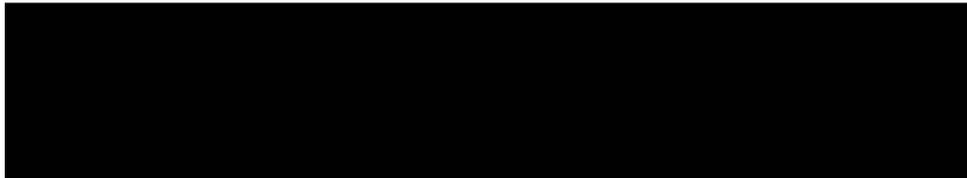
Applicant:



APPLICATION:

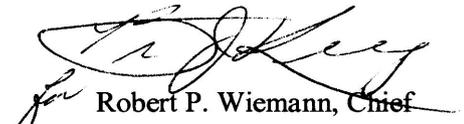
Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254

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.


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 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 failed to establish he was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods.

The record reveals that the applicant filed a Form 1-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status on July 2, 2002, under CIS receipt number WAC 02 279 53941. The director denied the application on November 7, 2003 after determining that the applicant had abandoned his application based on his failure to appear for fingerprinting during the 87-day period beginning on October 24, 2002. The director informed the applicant that there is no appeal from a denial due to abandonment, but that he could file a motion to reopen the case within 33 days of the date of issuance of the Notice of Decision. The record does not reflect that he filed a motion.

The applicant filed the current TPS application, EAC 06 32471482, on August 6, 2006. The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish that he was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods.

On appeal, counsel for the applicant states that the applicant is a child of a TPS recipient, therefore, he should be eligible 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 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 (t)(2) of this section.

The phrase 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.

The phrase 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.

The phrase *brief, casual, and innocent absence*, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means a departure from the United States that satisfies the following criteria:

- (1) Each such absence was of short duration and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose(s) for the absence;

- (2) The absence was not the result of an order of deportation, an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure without the institution of deportation proceedings; and

(3) The purposes for the absence from the United States or actions while outside of the United States were not contrary to law.

Persons applying for TPS offered to EI Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. The designation of TPS for EI Salvadorans has been extended several times, with the latest extension valid until March 9, 2009, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

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 initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed his application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on August 6, 2006.

On January 26, 2007, the applicant was requested 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 qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The applicant, in response, provided some documentation relating to his residence and physical presence in the United States.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish he was eligible for late registration and denied the application on March 22, 2007.

The record of proceedings 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 he fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above. A review of the record reveals that the applicant is a child of the TPS registrant, and as such, is eligible for late registration. Therefore, the director's decision on this ground will be withdrawn.

The second issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001 or his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, counsel for the applicant submits a statement stating that the applicant came to the United States in March of 2003 and that he did not have family in El Salvador to care for him since his mother is in the United States.

While the child of an eligible TPS registrant may be eligible to submit a late initial registration, these regulations do not relax the requirements for eligibility for TPS. However, the child is still required to meet the continuous residence and the continuous physical presence requirements as provided in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). It is noted that the applicant stated on his previous TPS application, filed on July 2, 2002, that he arrived in the United States on September 1, 1999 and on a subsequent TPS application filed on September 4, 2006, that he entered the United States on May 25, 1993. In addition, the applicant stated on his current TPS applications that he arrived in the United States in "App. 2003." The applicant did not provide any explanation for these discrepancies.

Doubt cast on any aspect of the applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. It is incumbent upon the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth, in fact, lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19, I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1988).

The applicant has not submitted sufficient credible evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, or his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. 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 TPS on these grounds will 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 TPS 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.