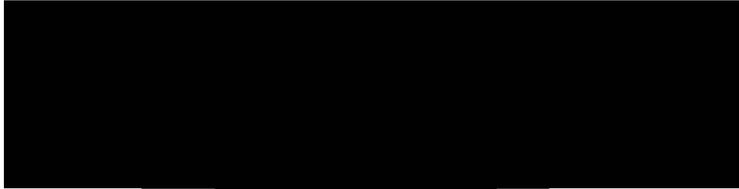




U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: MAY 01 2008
[EAC 08 074 52174, *appeal*]
[EAC 07 13770145]

INRE: 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 Vermont 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, 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 applying for 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 she was eligible for late initial registration. The director also found that the applicant had not established that she had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001 or that she had been continuously physically present in this country since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant states:

I feel the Service has made a mistake on denying my case. I have demonstrated that I have been present in the United States for the required period of time, and that I am a citizen of El Salvador. Attached you will find the additional evidence required and I hope that the Service makes a fair and justified decision.

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 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 **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.

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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El 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 initial registration period for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record shows that the applicant filed her application with Citizenship and Immigration Services on February 14, 2007.

To qualify for **late** registration, an 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.

On July 27, 2007, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her eligibility for **late** registration as set forth in the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant **was** also requested to submit evidence establishing her continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The applicant, in response, provided documentation relating to her residence and physical presence in this country. However, she did not submit any evidence to establish **that** she **was** eligible for late initial registration.

On appeal, the applicant submits evidence in an attempt to establish her continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file her Application for Temporary Protected Status within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish **that** she has met any of the criteria for **late** registration described in the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS is affirmed.

The record contains a copy of the applicant's Republic of El Salvador Identification Card. The card was issued to *her* in El Salvador on *July* 8, 2002. Therefore, she could not have been in continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001. After review of the record, it is determined that the applicant has not provided sufficient evidence establishing her continuous residence and continuous physical presence during the required time period. 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2 (b) and (c). Therefore, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS is affirmed for these additional 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 cited 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.