

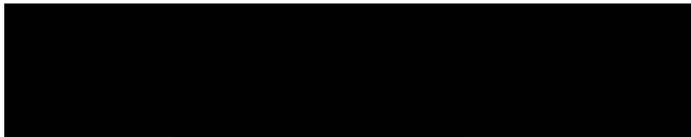
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000  
Washington, DC 20529



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

**PUBLIC COPY**



FILE: [Redacted]  
[WAC 02 205 54129]

Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: **MAY 05 2008**

INRE: Applicant:

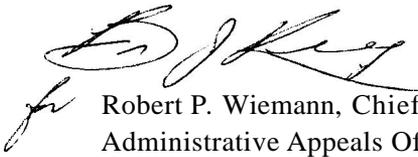


APPLICATION: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.c. § 1254

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: 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.

  
Robert P. Wiemann, Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The applicant's Temporary Protected Status was withdrawn and the re-registration application denied by the Director, California Service Center. The application 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 was granted Temporary Protected Status (IPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254, on December 23, 2003.

The director withdrew the applicant's TPS and denied the re-registration application on November 5, 2007 because he found the applicant was no longer eligible due to his two misdemeanor convictions in the United States.

On appeal, the applicant states that a Vehicle Code offense should not affect his eligibility for TPS since there was no intent, no bad moral character, and no one was hurt.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 244.14 states:

- (a) Authority of the director. The director may withdraw the status of an alien granted Temporary Protected Status under section 244 of the Act at any time upon the occurrence of any of the following:
  - (1) The alien was not in fact eligible at the time such status was granted, or at any time thereafter becomes ineligible for such status;
  - (2) The alien has not remained continuously physically present in the United States from the date the alien was first granted Temporary Protected Status under this part. For the purpose of this provision, an alien granted Temporary Protected Status under this part shall be deemed not to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States if the alien departs the United States after first obtaining permission from the district director to travel pursuant to § 244.15;
  - (3) The alien fails without good cause to register with the Attorney General annually within thirty (30) days before the end of each 12-month period after the granting of Temporary Protected Status.

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.

An alien shall not be eligible for temporary protected status under this section if the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security finds that the alien has been convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States. See Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a).

8 C.F.R. § 244.1 defines "felony" and "misdemeanor:"

*Felony* means a crime committed in the United States, punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, except: When the offense is defined by the State as a misdemeanor and the sentence actually imposed is one year or less regardless of the term such alien actually served. Under this exception for purposes of section 244 of the Act, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor.

*Misdemeanor* means a crime committed in the United States, either

- (1) Punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, or

(2) A crime treated as a misdemeanor under the term "felony" of this section.

For purposes of this definition, any crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of five days or less shall not be considered a misdemeanor.

The record shows the following:

1. On August 27, 2005, in the County of Santa Clara, State of California, the applicant was arrested by the DEPT OF CORR SAN JOSE and charged with Count (1) Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, in violation of Vehicle Code Section 23152(a), a misdemeanor; Count (2) Driving With a Blood Alcohol Level of 0.08 or More, in violation of Vehicle Code Section 23152(b), a misdemeanor; and Count (3) Failing to Provide Evidence of Financial Responsibility, in violation of Vehicle Code Section 16028(a), an Infraction. On October 11, 2005, the applicant was convicted and ordered to three years probation, and to serve 10 days in the County Jail.
2. On November 26, 2005, the applicant was arrested by the POLICE DEPARTMENT SUNNYVALE and charged with Count (1) Battery, a misdemeanor. On August 16, 2006, the applicant was convicted and sentenced to two years probation, and to serve one day in the County Jail.

The court dispositions in the record clearly establish that the applicant has been convicted of at least three misdemeanors. Accordingly, the applicant is ineligible for TPS due to his misdemeanor convictions, detailed above. Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a). Consequently, the district director's decision to deny the TPS application for this reason will be **affirmed**.

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.