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U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 08 051 74924]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: OCT 31 2008

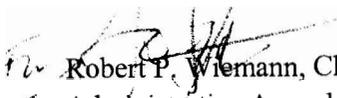
IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

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.


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 claims to be a 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 determined that the applicant failed to establish she: 1) had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; 2) had been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001; and 3) was eligible for late registration. The director also determined that the applicant failed to submit an identity document. The director, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that the birth certificate she submitted had her wrong birth certificate. The applicant also submits a copy of a birth certificate.

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 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.

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 El Salvadorans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that they have been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. On July 9, 2002, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until September 9, 2003. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest extension granted until March 9, 2009, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite period.

The initial registration period for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record shows that the applicant filed this application on November 20, 2007.

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 her 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 March 9, 2001 through September 9, 2002, she 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 March 25, 2008, the applicant was provided the opportunity to submit evidence establishing her 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 her nationality and identity, as well as evidence establishing her continuous residence since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001 to the date of filing the application. The applicant, in response, provided evidence in an attempt to establish her nationality and identity,

as well as evidence in an attempt to establish her continuous residence and continuous physical presence during the qualifying period. She did not present evidence of her eligibility for late registration. Therefore, the director denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that she submitted the wrong "birth certificate." She apparently meant an incorrect "birth date." According to the applicant, she told the hospital she was 18 years old, but was only actually 17 years old. The applicant submits another copy of an El Salvador birth certificate. However, this does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file her TPS application 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 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's conclusion that the applicant failed to establish her eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

The second and third issues in this proceeding are whether the applicant has established her continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

In support of her TPS application, the applicant submitted:

1. A copy of an El Salvadoran birth certificate without an English translation.
2. Copies of statements from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
3. Copies of a bill from Good Samaritan Hospital dated March 21, 1999, Money Gram receipts dated March 28, 2005, May 5, 2005, June 18, 2005, and July 11, 2005, a Certificate of Live Birth dated October 4, 2006.

As stated above, the applicant was requested on March 25, 2008, to submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. In response, the applicant submitted the following documentation:

4. Copies of an envelope with an illegible postmark date, a hand-written rent receipt dated October 6, 2007, money transfer receipts dated November 25, 1999, December 12, 2000, February 14, 2003, March 28, 2003, May 7, 2004, May 9, 2004, March 7, 2005, and May 5, 2005.
5. Copies of a T-Mobile bill dated October 28, 2007, and a letter from New York Medical Choice dated September 16, 2006.
6. A copy of a letter from [REDACTED] dated April 4, 2008.
7. Copies of two Gigante Express receipts dated November 25, 1999, and December 12, 2000.

The director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods and denied the application. On appeal, the applicant submits another copy of the birth certificate without an English translation.

_____ stated that he has known the applicant since December 1999. _____ stated that he has known the applicant since 1999. However, these statements have little evidentiary weight or probative value. _____ and _____ do not state where they have known the applicant or the address(es) of the applicant since their acquaintance. These statements are not supported by any corroborative evidence. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some type of contemporaneous evidence to support these assertions; however, insufficient evidence has been provided. _____ stated that the applicant was her tenant from October 1999 to 2003. However, as indicated by the director, the applicant would have been 12 years old at the time. Furthermore _____ failed to provide an address where the applicant was her tenant.

The hospital bill and two of the money transfer receipts indicate that the applicant was present in the United States prior to the requisite dates to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. However, the evidence presented by the applicant cannot establish her continuous residence since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001, to the filing date of the TPS application. The applicant did provide Money Gram receipts dated February 14, 2003, to May 5, 2005; however, these are well after the beginning of the requisite time periods.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. She has, therefore, failed to establish that she 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 fourth issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established her identity and nationality.

8 C.F.R. § 244.9, states that each application for TPS must be accompanied by evidence of the applicant's identity and nationality.

Sec. 244.9 Evidence.

(a) *Documentation.* Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by the Service. The Service may require proof of unsuccessful efforts to obtain documents claimed to be unavailable. If any required document is unavailable, an affidavit or other credible evidence may be submitted.

(1) *Evidence of identity and nationality.* Each application must be accompanied by evidence of the applicant's identity and nationality, if available. If these documents are unavailable, the applicant shall file an affidavit showing proof of unsuccessful efforts to obtain such identity documents, explaining why the consular process is unavailable, and affirming that he or she is a national of the designated foreign state. A personal interview before an immigration officer shall be required for each applicant who fails to provide documentary proof of identity or nationality. During this interview, the applicant may present any secondary evidence that he or she feels would be helpful in showing

nationality. Acceptable evidence in descending order of preference may consist of: (Amended 11/16/98; 63 FR 63593)

- (i) Passport;
- (ii) Birth certificate accompanied by photo identification; and/or
- (iii) Any national identity document from the alien's country of origin bearing photo and/or fingerprint.

On appeal, the applicant provides a copy of her birth certificate; however, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(a)(1), the applicant must also provide photo identification. Furthermore, a review of the birth certificate submitted on appeal appears to have a different birth date than the copy originally furnished with her TPS application. These discrepancies have not been satisfactorily explained. 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).

It is also noted that the birth certificates are not accompanied by English translations. Any document containing foreign language submitted to the CIS shall be accompanied by a full English language translation, which the translator has certified as complete and accurate, and by the translator's certification that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English. 8 C.F.R. 103.2(b)(3).

The applicant has not provided sufficient evidence to establish that she is a national or citizen of El Salvador pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 244.9. Therefore, the application will also be denied for this reason.

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.