

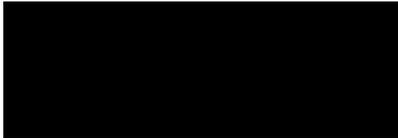
**PUBLIC COPY**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
20 Mass Ave., N.W., Rm. A3042  
Washington, DC 20529

**Identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy**



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**



**MI**

FILE:



Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date **AUG 02 2005**

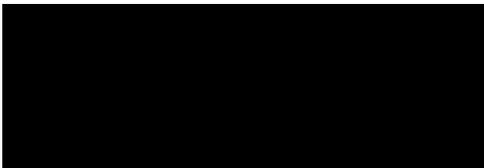
IN RE:

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, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The initial application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was denied on May 18, 2000, by the Director, Vermont Service Center. A subsequent motion to reopen was dismissed on December 13, 2002. The applicant re-filed for TPS on July 29, 2003. On October 15, 2003, the application was denied by the director, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a citizen of Honduras who is seeking 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.

On appeal, counsel provides a statement.

As stated in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1. "register" means "to properly file, with the director, a completed application, with proper fee, for Temporary Protected Status during the registration period designated under section 244(b) of the Act."

The record reveals that the applicant did file an initial application for TPS during the initial registration period. The director denied that application on May 18, 2000, for abandonment. The director advised the applicant that a denial due to abandonment may not be appealed. The director also advised that the applicant could file a motion to reopen a petition or application denied due to abandonment with evidence that the decision was in error because:

1. The requested evidence was not material to the issue of eligibility;
2. The required initial evidence was submitted with the application or petition, or the request for initial evidence or additional information or appearance was complied with during the allotted period; or
3. The request for additional information or appearance was sent to an address other than that on the application, petition, or notice of representation, or that the applicant or petitioner advised the Service, in writing, of a change of address or change of representation subsequent to filing and before the Service's request was sent, and the request did not go to the new address.

The applicant was given until June 20, 2000 to file a motion. The applicant filed a motion to reopen on June 17, 2002, almost two years after the allotted timeframe.

The director, in a decision dated September 19, 2001, dismissed the motion to reopen. The director stated in the decision that "you have not demonstrated that you have met one of the three criteria listed above for which the Service may reopen an abandoned petition." The director further mentioned that the applicant's motion was not submitted within the required 33 days.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on July 29, 2003. The director denied this second application because it was filed outside of the initial registration period, and the applicant had failed to establish his eligibility for filing under the provisions of late registration. Since the

applicant did properly file an application during the initial registration period, the director erred in his explanation of the basis for denial. While the director found the applicant ineligible for TPS because he had failed to establish eligibility for late registration, the director's decision did not sufficiently explain the entire basis for the denial.

The applicant's initial Form I-821 was properly filed. That initial application was denied by the director on May 18, 2000. Any Form I-821 application subsequently submitted by the same applicant after an initial application is filed and a decision rendered must be considered as either a request for annual registration or as a new filing for TPS benefits.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

The applicant filed a subsequent Form I-821 on July 29, 2003. Since the initial application was denied on May 18, 2000, the subsequent application cannot be considered as re-registration. Therefore, this application can only be considered as late registration.

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.

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.

The issue raised by the director to be addressed in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

Persons applying for TPS offered to Hondurans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that they have been continuously physically present since January 5, 1999. The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999. The

record reveals that the applicant filed his initial application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on August 20, 1999. The initial application was denied for abandonment on May 18, 2000. The applicant re-filed his application for TPS on July 29, 2003.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, he was either in a valid immigration status, had an application pending for relief from removal, was a parolee, or was the spouse/child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant, and he had filed an application for late registration within 60 days of the expiration or termination of the conditions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2).

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 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 record of proceedings confirms that the applicant re-filed his TPS application after the initial registration period had closed. In a notice of intent to deny, dated August 22, 2003, 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 of his continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999.

The director found that the applicant, in response to the notice of intent to deny, "provided the requested documentation for your TPS presence requirements. However, you failed to provide any supporting documentation that establishes TPS LIF eligibility." The director denied the application on October 15, 2003.

On appeal, counsel argues that the applicant's initial I-821 application provided the applicant with relief from removal.

Taking counsel's argument to its logical extreme, an alien who had abandoned his initial application could file a new application within 60 days after the denial for abandonment, abandon the new application, and perpetuate the application process indefinitely; thus enjoying the benefits of Temporary Protected Status without ever successfully completing the application process. The provisions for late registration detailed in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) were not created to allow aliens who had abandoned their initial applications to circumvent the normal application and adjudication process. Rather, these provisions were created to ensure that Temporary Protected Status benefits were made available to aliens who did not register during the initial registration period for the various circumstances specifically identified in the regulations.

Having an application for TPS pending during the initial registration period does not render an alien eligible for late registration under 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2).

The applicant has not submitted any evidence on appeal to establish that he has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

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.