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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 01 207 50860]

Office: Vermont Service Center

Date:

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

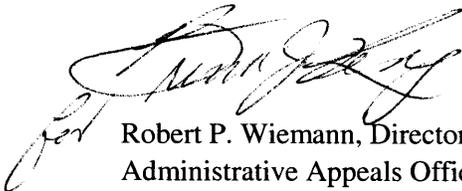
APPLICATION: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

[REDACTED]

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, Director
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 she had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and had been continuously physically present in the United States from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing her application.

On appeal, counsel, on behalf of the applicant, asserts her claim of eligibility for TPS and submits evidence in support of her claim.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant is eligible for TPS 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 § 244.3;
- (e) Is not ineligible under § 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.

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 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. On July 9, 2002, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until September 9, 2003. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity until September 9, 2006, 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).

On August 4, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her continuous residence in the United States as of February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing her application. In response, the applicant submitted some evidence in an attempt to establish her continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The director determined that the applicant failed to establish she had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and had been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001, to the date of filing her application. Therefore, the director denied the application on September 30, 2003.

On appeal, counsel, on behalf of the applicant, asserts her eligibility for TPS and provides the following documentation: a letter from the applicant dated October 16, 2003, who stated that she entered the United States on November 16, 1997, and that she had lived at [REDACTED] in Deer Park, New York since February 2002; a copy of a letter dated July 19, 2001, from the Social Security Administration regarding her application for a Social Security card; copies of the applicant's Cablevision billing statements covering periods from November 21, 2001 to January 22, 2002; a copy of the applicant's warranty extension notification dated July 4, 2001, from P.C. Richard & Son; a copy of the applicant's Cablevision installation work order dated November 21, 2001; a copy of a correspondence from CapitalOne dated December 24, 2001; copies of Gigante Express receipts bearing the names of [REDACTED] dated January 23, 2001 and December 7, "200"; copies of Gigante Express receipts bearing the applicant's name dated November 9, 2001; copies of several money order receipts with illegible dates; a copy of the applicant's Internal Revenue Service Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, and Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income statement, for the 2001 tax year; a copy of the applicant's Statement of Interest Income for the 2001 tax year; a copy of the applicant's Personal Banking Statement from The Bank of New York for the period of November 20, 2001 to December 14, 2001; and a copy of a hand-written receipt dated March 18, 2001.

Counsel, on behalf of the applicant, provides copies of Gigante Express receipts bearing the name of [REDACTED]. The applicant had not indicated the use of any other names on her applications for temporary protected status or employment authorization. Additionally, the applicant had provided, along with her application for TPS, copies of her El Salvadoran government issued passport bearing the name of [REDACTED]. As such, only evidence bearing her name of [REDACTED] will be considered in these proceedings.

The applicant had stated in her affidavit dated October 16, 2003, that she lived at [REDACTED] in Deer Park, New York since February 2002. A review of the evidence submitted on appeal indicates that the applicant resided at [REDACTED] before February 2002. It is also worth noting that the applicant had cable television installed at this address on November 21, 2001. 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 lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1988). The applicant has failed to submit any objective evidence to explain or justify the discrepancies in her claimed residences. Therefore, the reliability of the remaining evidence offered by the applicant is suspect and it must be concluded that the applicant has failed to

satisfy the continuous residence and continuous physical presence requirements described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, 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.