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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20529



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

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[Redacted]

FILE: [Redacted] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: JUL 01 2005

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. P. Wiemann".

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 that he had: (1) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; and (2) been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he has submitted evidence to show that he has been physically present in the United States since on or before February 13, 2001.

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.

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. An extension of the TPS designation has been granted 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 April 12, 2002, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001. The applicant, in response, provided the following documentation:

1. A copy of a birth certificate from Boston, Massachusetts indicating that one [REDACTED] was born to [REDACTED] on June 18, 2000; and
2. A copy of a birth certificate from Boston, Massachusetts indicating that one [REDACTED] was born to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on December 13, 2001.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his eligibility for TPS and denied the application on June 4, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant reasserts his claim and submits the following documentation:

3. A letter from [REDACTED] dated June 9, 2003, in which the pastor states that he has known the applicant since January of 2001 as a good person, trustworthy, responsible, and of good moral character;
4. A copy of a payroll record from [REDACTED] America, LLC indicating the applicant's pay for the pay period ending June 15, 2003;
5. A copy of the applicant's IRS Form, W-2 Wage and Tax Statements for 2002;
6. A copy of the applicant's Massachusetts State Income Tax Return for 2002; and
7. A copy of the applicant's IRS Form 1040A, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for 2002.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence or continuous physical presence in the United States during the period from February 13, 2001, to January 2, 2002. The Pastor's letter has little evidentiary weight or probative value as it does not provide basic information that is expressly required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(v). Specifically, the pastor does not explain the origin of the information to which he attests, nor does he provide the address where the applicant resided during the period of his involvement with the church. It is further noted that the pastor gave a P.O. Box number as the church's address.

The payroll record and income tax documents submitted by the applicant on appeal are all dated 2002 or 2003, and do not serve as evidence to show the applicant's continuous presence in the United States since February 13, 2001. Further, the affidavits submitted with the initial TPS application have little evidentiary weight or probative value as they do not provide basic information that is expressly required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(i). Specifically, the affiants do not provide the address where the applicant resided during the period of his stay in the United States, nor do they explain the origin of the information for which they are attesting to.

A single United States birth certificate bearing the name of the applicant as "father" is insufficient to establish that he has continuously resided in the United States and has continuously been physically present in the United States since February 13, 2001. The applicant has, thereby, failed to establish that he 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 TPS 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.