



U.S. Citizenship
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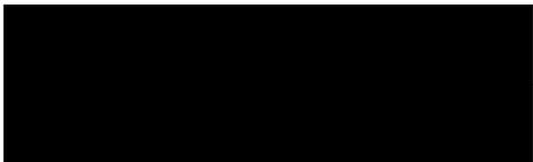
Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

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:



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 (AAO) 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 his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001.

On appeal, counsel provides additional evidence in support of the appeal.

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 issue raised by the director to be addressed in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established his continuous residence in the United States during the requisite timeframe.

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. 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 record reveals that the applicant filed his application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on August 19, 2002.

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).

In a notice of intent to deny, dated February 14, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States as of February 13, 2001. In response, the applicant provided documentation not relative to the requisite timeframe.

The director found that the evidence submitted failed to establish the applicant's continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001. The director denied the application on January 15, 2004.

On appeal, counsel states that the applicant has always had the necessary documents to demonstrate physical and continuous residence in the United States. Counsel submits: two postmarked envelopes for May 26, 2001, and one for May 3, 2001; a copy of an online case status service from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which states that the applicant's card or document that had been mailed on September 17, 2002, was returned by the post office because they could not deliver it; a letter dated February 10, 2004, from Family Care/Urgent Care, in Alexandria, Virginia, stating that the applicant has been undergoing medical treatment at its facility since December 11, 2000; a letter dated February 9, 2004, from [REDACTED] who states that the applicant has been a patient at the Hayfield Medical Center in Alexandria, Virginia since April 15, 2002; a letter dated February 11, 2004, from Allstate, which states that the applicant has been a driver under his mother's automobile policy from September 24, 1999 to the present.

The documentation submitted is not sufficient in establishing that the applicant has continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001. The doctors' letters, without supporting medical records showing dates the applicant was at the medical facilities, are not sufficient for the purpose of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *See Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972). The remaining evidence is sparse and does not sufficiently demonstrate the applicant's day-to-day living in the United States from the onset of the qualifying timeframe to the filing date of his TPS application. It is noted that the record is replete with documentation to show that the applicant was residing in the United States prior to the onset of the qualifying timeframe. The applicant has provided no additional evidence on appeal to sufficiently establish his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, until the filing of his TPS application on August 19, 2002. The applicant has failed to provide sufficient evidence to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS on this ground will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, for the reasons stated above, the evidence contained in the record is not sufficient in establishing that the applicant has been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. Therefore, the application must also be denied for this reason.

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.