

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

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



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

PUBLIC COPY

M 1

FILE:



Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **MAY 25 2005**

[EAC 02 276 51173]

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: 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 "Robert 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 stated to be 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 she had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and failed to establish that she had been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant provides a brief statement and some additional documentation.

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 issues raised by the director to be addressed in this proceeding are whether the applicant has continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and whether she has been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

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.

El Salvadorians applying for TPS must demonstrate entry on or prior to February 13, 2001, continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

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. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a). The sufficiency of all evidence, however, 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 August 26, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001, and her continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001. In response, the applicant submitted a statement from [REDACTED] which was previously submitted.

The director found that the applicant had not provided any new evidence to establish her continuous residence and her continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite timeframes. The director denied the application on November 6, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant states that she has all the qualifications to qualify for TPS, and that she is a good candidate. The applicant submits: numerous healthcare documents, medical bills, and medical records for the years 2002 and 2003; a letter dated November 29, 2003, from the office manager of Asesoria Centro Americana in Baltimore, Maryland, which states that the applicant has been a client since February 5, 2001, and that she remains a client; a copy of the birth certificate of the applicant's child born on February 19, 2003 in Washington, DC; copies of two rent receipts for May 21, 2003 and August 19, 2003; a receipt from Avon, dated October 3, 2003; a copy of a Western Union Money Transfer receipt for July 14, 2003; an illegible copy of a Western Union Money Transfer receipt; a receipt from Bancomerico, dated December 8, 2002; and, an earnings statement for October 4, 2003. The applicant also submits receipts from "Central Express" for April 14, 2001, April 21, 2001, May 20, 2001, September 29, 2001, June 3, 2002, June 9, 2002, and October 12, 2002. It is noted that the dates for the receipts for the year 2001 appear to have been altered. The applicant resubmits a letter dated September 7, 2003, from [REDACTED] who states that the applicant "from 2/01/01 to 5/2002 was renting a room" from him. It is noted that the record contains another letter from Jose J. Renderos, dated August 27, 2002, in which he states that the applicant has lived in his home "since January of 2001 to the present." This letter contradicts [REDACTED] letter of September 7, 2003. It is also noted that, with the exception of the above-mentioned letter from Asesoria Centro Americana, the questionable receipts and the two contradicting letters from [REDACTED] are the only documents in the record for the year 2001. All other documentation provided does not begin until almost one year after the onset of the requisite timeframes. 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, 591-92 (BIA 1988). 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. *Id.*, 582, 591.

The applicant provided no additional documentary evidence on appeal to establish that she has been continuously residing in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that she has been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. The majority of the documentation presented is dated almost a year or two after the onset of the qualifying timeframes, the few receipts for April, May and September of 2001, appear to have been altered, and the letters from [REDACTED] are contradictory. The documentation provided is 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). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant has not provided evidence to establish her identity. 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.