



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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FILE: [REDACTED]  
[EAC 03 213 52063]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: NOV 30 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.

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 applying for 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 after determining that the applicant had failed to establish she is eligible for late registration. The director also determined that the applicant had failed to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods.

On appeal, the applicant submits a letter.

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.

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. The initial registration period for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reflects that the applicant filed her initial TPS application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on July 14, 2003, more than ten months after the initial registration period had ended.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period he or she fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

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 support of her initial Form I-821, the applicant submitted a photocopy of an abstract of her El Salvadoran birth certificate, with English translation.<sup>1</sup> She also submitted four undated letters from acquaintances attesting to their knowledge of the applicant and her good moral character.

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<sup>1</sup> It is noted that the applicant indicated in Part 2 of her Form I-821 that she was born in El Salvador and is a citizen of Honduras. However, in Part 4 of the Form I-821, and in Part 4 of her Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization (filed in connection with the Form I-821), the applicant indicated that she is a citizen of El Salvador. For purposes of this discussion, it will be assumed that the claim of Honduran citizenship in Part 2 of the Form I-821 was made in error.

On September 17, 2003, the director requested the applicant to submit evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The applicant was informed that such evidence may include, but was not limited to, employment or school records, rent/mortgage payment receipts, bank or insurance documents, medical or utility bills, or other similar materials. The director also requested the applicant to submit evidence to establish her eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). In response, the applicant submitted four additional undated letters from acquaintances attesting to their knowledge of the applicant and her good moral character.

The director determined that the documentation submitted was insufficient to establish that the applicant 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. The director also determined that the applicant had failed to establish that she was eligible for late registration. The director denied the application on January 28, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant submits an undated letter stating that she did not apply for TPS during the initial registration period because she did not have enough money and was afraid of being deported. She also states that she has only letters from acquaintances to establish eligibility for TPS.

The applicant claims to have lived in the United States since September 23, 1993. It is reasonable to expect that she would have a variety of contemporaneous evidence to support this claim. Letters from acquaintances are not, by themselves, persuasive evidence of residence or physical presence.

It is concluded that the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. She has, therefore, failed to establish that she meets the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for these reasons will be affirmed.

Furthermore, the record confirms that the applicant filed her initial TPS application after the initial registration period had closed. Although the applicant has submitted evidence in an attempt to establish her residence and physical presence in the United States, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file her Form I-821 within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that she has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for Temporary Protected Status for this reason will also be affirmed.

It is further noted that the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish her nationality and identity under the provisions of 8 C.F.R. § 299.9(a)(1). The application must also be denied for this reason.

The application will be denied for the above stated reasons, with each considered as an independent and alternative basis for denial. 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.