

Identifying data deleted to  
prevent clearly unwarranted  
invasion of personal privacy



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

**PUBLIC COPY**

MI

FILE:

[REDACTED]

Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER

Date: SEP 02 2005

[SRC 03 187 54407]

[SRC 04 092 50197 Appeal]

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*

Robert P. Wiemann, Director  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The application was denied by the Director, Texas 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 Honduras 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 was eligible for late registration.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement and additional evidence.

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.

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 Hondurans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that they have been continuously physically present since January 5, 1999. On May 11, 2000, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until July 5, 2001. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest extension valid until July 5, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999, through August 20, 1999. The record reveals that the applicant filed his initial TPS application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on June 23, 2003.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he 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 burden of proof, the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, he fell within the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) (listed above). If the qualifying condition or

application has expired or been terminated, the individual must file within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of the qualifying condition in order to be considered for late initial registration. 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(g).

On November 5, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. In addition, the applicant was requested to submit photo identification. The applicant, in response, provided photocopies of the following documentation: generic United States Postal Service receipts dated in 1999; generic money order receipts dated in 1999; a beeper service agreement dated "6-4-99;" receipts in his name for lumber and truck accessories dated in 1999; a money transfer receipt dated May 18, 1999; and, a Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department payment receipt date 4-28-[blank].

It is noted that with the initial TPS application, the applicant also provided a photocopy of his Honduran identification card dated February 13, 1997.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish he was eligible for late registration and denied the application on January 15, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant states that he would like to be given "the [o]ppportunity to continue being legal in this country in which with a lot of difficulty [he has] lived here without having the [o]ppportunity of being employed and also given the chance to pay [his] taxes." He states that he has been living in the United States since 1997, and did not apply earlier due to incorrect information and fear of being deported. In support of the appeal, the applicant submits photocopies of Safeway Premium Finance, Inc., Miami, Florida, payment coupons all dated in 1999.

The applicant submitted evidence in an attempt to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. However, this evidence does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, within the initial registration period. The reasons given by the applicant for not filing during the initial registration period do not fall within the allowable provisions for late registration. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that he 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 will be affirmed.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant has failed to submit sufficient credible evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. Much of the submitted documentation appears to have been altered. 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, therefore, failed to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c), and the application must also be denied for these reasons.

Although the applicant certified, under penalty of perjury, on the Form I-821, that he had never been under immigration proceedings, the record includes documentation pertaining to the applicant's expedited removal

proceedings. The record reflects that the applicant attempted to enter the United States on October 2, 1999, using a backdated entry stamp. According to statements taken at that time, the applicant indicated, and his documents confirmed, that he had previously entered the United States on April 18, 1999, as a B-1 visitor for business, with authorization to remain until May 17, 1999. The applicant admitted that he remained in the United States until September 5, 1999, returned to Honduras, and then attempted to re-enter the United States using the altered document. The applicant was found to be inadmissible to the United States under sections 212(a)(6)(C)(i) and (7)(A)(i)(I) of the Act, as amended, and was subsequently removed to Honduras on October 3, 1999.

These dates of entry further undermine the applicant's claim of continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States for the requisite periods.

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.