



U.S. Citizenship  
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FILE:

[WAC 02 078 53635]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: SEP 08 2005

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.

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 claims to be a 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 qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The director also determined that the applicant had failed to provide his fingerprints, required in connection with his application.

On appeal, the applicant submits a brief statement.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant is eligible for TPS 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 § 244.3;
- (e) Is not ineligible under § 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.
- (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. On July 9, 2002, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until September 9, 2003. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest granted 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 meets the above requirements. Applicants must 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 burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

In support of his initial TPS application, filed at the California Service Center on December 31, 2001, the applicant submitted the following:

1. A photocopy of an abstract of his El Salvadoran birth certificate, with English translation;
2. An affidavit, dated November 10, 2001, from [REDACTED] stating that the applicant had been living in the United States since December 25, 2000; and,
3. A photocopy of a medical record, dated September 26, 2001, indicating that he is the father of a child, [REDACTED] born on September 13, 2001 in Hawthorne, California.

On January 16, 2004, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The record reflects that the applicant failed to respond to the request.

The director determined that the applicant had not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his eligibility for TPS and denied the application on April 15, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant states that he has no further documentation to provide because when he came to the United States he stayed with his sister and brother-in-law who paid for all of his needs.

The applicant claims to have resided in the United States since December 25, 2000. It is reasonable to assume that he would have a variety of contemporaneous evidence to support this claim. A letter from an acquaintance and the birth certificate of the applicant's child are not, by themselves, persuasive evidence of the applicant's qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods.

Based on a review of the record, it is concluded that the documentation submitted by the applicant is not sufficient to establish that he satisfies the continuous residence and continuous physical presence requirements described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). 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 submitted an identity document bearing her photograph and/or fingerprint, as required under the provisions of 8 C.F.R. § 299.9(a)(1)(ii) and (iii). The application must also be denied for this reason.

It is noted that the record reflects that the applicant was requested, on January 4, 2002, to appear for fingerprinting in connection with his application on February 1, 2002. However, the record does not contain the applicant's fingerprint report, and there is no evidence in the record to establish that the applicant appeared as scheduled.

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.