

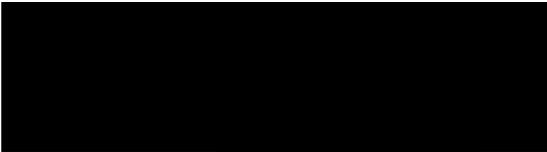


U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 02 227 52206]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: **JAN 26 2006**

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 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 that she had: 1) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; and 2) been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant asserts her claim of eligibility for TPS.

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 is eligible for TPS only if such alien establishes that he or she:

- (a) Is a national of a 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 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.

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. An extension of the TPS designation has been granted with validity 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 or she meets the above requirements. Applicants shall 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 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).

The applicant initially submitted the following documentation along with her TPS application:

1. An affidavit from [REDACTED] in which she stated that she has known the applicant since 1999;
2. An affidavit from [REDACTED] in which he stated that he has known the applicant since 1999;
3. An affidavit from [REDACTED] in which she stated that she has known the applicant since 1999; and,
4. An affidavit from [REDACTED] in which he stated that he has known the applicant since 1999.

On December 21, 2004, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her continuous residence since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001, in the United States. The applicant, in response, provided the following documentation:

5. An affidavit from [REDACTED] in which he stated that he has known the applicant since 1999; and,

6. An affidavit from [REDACTED] in which he stated that he has known the applicant since 1999.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish her eligibility for TPS and denied the application on January 27, 2005.

On appeal, the applicant reasserts her claim of eligibility for TPS and submits the following documentation:

7. Copies of pay stubs from Regency Cleaning Service dated August, September, and October of 2001 and bearing the applicant's name as employee;
8. A copy of the applicant's IRS Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement for 2001 from Regency Cleaning Service;
9. Copies of money order receipts from Western Union dated May, July, and November of 2001, bearing the applicant's name as sender, and with the expected payout location to be El Salvador; and,
10. A letter from [REDACTED] in which he states that he has known the applicant since 1999, that she lacks documents because he paid for all her expenses in his name, that she did not seek medical attention, attend school or church, and that she did not send any money in her name to El Salvador.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. In response to the director's request for evidence, the applicant stated that she was submitting affidavits as her evidence and that all other documents were in her friend's name. [REDACTED] who is the friend of the applicant, stated that the applicant lived with him, he paid all the bills, and that the applicant never sent money in her name to El Salvador. Contrary to those statements, on appeal the applicant submits copies of her pay stubs and money order receipts from Western Union which suggest that she sent money to El Salvador three times in 2001. 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 failed to submit any objective evidence to explain or justify the inconsistencies.

There has been no corroborative evidence submitted to support the statements made by the affiants in numbers 1 through 6 above regarding the applicant's claimed presence in the United States since 1999. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some type of contemporaneous evidence to support these assertions; however, insufficient evidence has been provided. Without corroborative evidence, affidavits from acquaintances do not substantiate clear and convincing evidence of the applicant's continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. Moreover, affidavits are only specifically listed as acceptable evidence for proof of employment, and attestations by churches, unions, or other organizations of the applicant's residence as described in 8 C.F.R. §244.9(a)(2)(i) and (v).

The remaining evidence is dated subsequent to the requisite period and therefore, cannot be used to establish eligibility for TPS. The applicant has failed to establish that she has met the continuous residence and continuous physical presence criteria described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS will be affirmed.

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

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.