

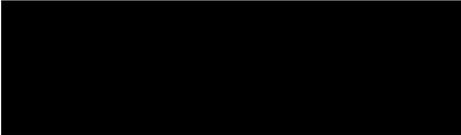
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U.S. Citizenship
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MI



FILE: [REDACTED]
[EAC 02 283 52318]

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 continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

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 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 § 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 has been granted, with the latest extension granted until September 9, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed his initial application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on September 6, 2002.

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 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).

The applicant indicated on his/her Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, that he entered the United States without inspection on February 8, 2001. In support of his application, the applicant submitted:

1. a photocopy of the biographic page of his Salvadoran passport issued in Washington, D.C., on January 8, 2002.

On August 12, 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 applicant, in response, submitted the following:

2. an affidavit dated August 31, 2004, from [REDACTED], pastor of [REDACTED] Jerusalem in Lutherville, Maryland, stating that he has known the applicant since February 10, 2001, when the applicant began attending his church;
3. an affidavit dated August 25, 2004, from [REDACTED] stating that he is the applicant's uncle, and that he provided the applicant with food and shelter after his arrival in the United States on February 8, 2001;
4. an affidavit dated August 25, 2004, from Christopher [REDACTED] stating that has known the applicant since early February 2001; and,
5. a photocopy of his 2003 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, and his 2003 IRS Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, from International Imports, Inc., in Baltimore, Maryland.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods and denied the application on September 30, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant states that he didn't declare his income for the year 2001 because he didn't have an IRS Individual Taxpayer Number or a Social Security number. He submits the following:

6. a photocopy of a 2001 hand-written IRS Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Towson, Maryland; and,
7. photocopies of mailing envelopes postmarked in El Salvador on: February 14, 2001; March 2, 2001; and, March 19, 2001.

The applicant's 2003 federal income tax return (No. 5 above) is dated after the requisite periods to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The applicant's 2001 IRS Form 1099-MISC (No. 6 above) does not establish the applicant's qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States because it does not indicate the applicant's actual dates of residence or physical presence in the United States in 2001. Additionally, without corroborative evidence, the affidavits from Mr. [REDACTED] (No. 3 above) and Mr. [REDACTED] (No. 4 above) are not sufficient to establish an applicant's qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence. Moreover, affidavits are only specifically listed as acceptable evidence of employment and membership in organizations such as churches or labor unions as described at 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(i) and (v).

The applicant has submitted only the affidavit from Pastor [REDACTED] (No. 2 above) to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States from March 19, 2001 to January 8, 2002, the issuance date of his Salvadoran passport (No. 1 above). The applicant has not submitted any independent evidence to corroborate Pastor [REDACTED] affidavit. The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States throughout the requisite periods.

The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b). It is determined that the documentation submitted by the applicant is not sufficient to establish that he satisfies the residence and 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.

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.