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**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

M1

JUN 28 2006

FILE:

[REDACTED]
[EAC 02 195 52105]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
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 claims to be 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 have been granted, with the latest extension granted until September 9, 2007, 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 TPS application with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on May 17, 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 Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, that he entered the United States without inspection on March 10, 2000. In support of his application, the applicant submitted the following:

1. a photocopy of an undated Sprint billing statement;
2. a photocopy of a Pepco billing statement dated December 20, 2000;

3. a photocopy of a District of Columbia Water & Sewer Authority billing statement dated January 21, 2001; and,
4. a photocopy of a letter dated February 3, 2001, from AT&T.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods and denied the application on December 22, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant requests that he be granted TPS because he has a family and needs to work. He submits the following additional evidence:

5. an affidavit dated January 15, 2005, from [REDACTED], in Frederick, Maryland, stating that the applicant worked for his company from February 2001 through March 2001 as a painter;
6. an affidavit dated January 14, 2005, from [REDACTED] stating that the applicant has been his tenant at [REDACTED] Rockville, Maryland, since 2000;
7. an affidavit dated January 15, 2005, from [REDACTED] stating that her first child with the applicant, [REDACTED] was born in the United States while the applicant was still in El Salvador, and that the applicant came to the United States in March 2000 to help her take care of their child;
8. photocopies of generic rent receipts dated: March 1, 2001; April 1, 2001; and, May 1, 2001; and,
9. Maryland birth certificates indicating that a son was born to [REDACTED] in Montgomery County, Maryland on May 7, 1999, and two other children were born to the applicant and [REDACTED] Montgomery County, Maryland, on July 27, 2002 and March 15, 2004.

The Pepco billing statement (No. 2 above), the District of Columbia Water & Sewer Authority billing statement (No. 3 above), and the AT&T letter (No. 4 above) are dated prior to the requisite periods to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The Sprint billing statement has no evidentiary weight because it is undated.

The employment affidavit from [REDACTED] (No. 5 above) has little evidentiary weight or probative value as it does not provide basic information that is expressly required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(i). Specifically, [REDACTED] does not provide the address where the applicant resided during the period of his employment.

The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b). 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. He has, therefore, failed 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.

Beyond the decision of the director, the applicant has not provided an official Salvadoran photo identification document to establish his identity and nationality as described at 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(1). Therefore, the application also must 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.