

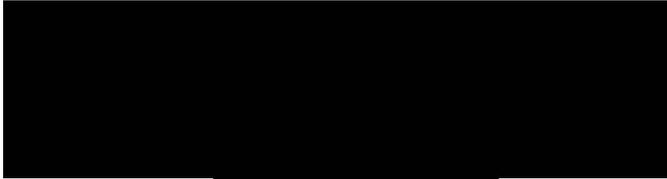


U.S. Citizenship
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FILE: [REDACTED]
[WAC 05 153 70825]

Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: JUL 19 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, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, California Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is 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 record reveals that the applicant filed a TPS application during the initial registration period on March 30, 2001, under Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) receipt number WAC 01 172 52614. The Director, Nebraska Service Center, denied that application for abandonment on October 4, 2004, because the applicant failed to respond to a request for evidence to establish her continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period. The director also found that the applicant failed to provide photo identification. There is nothing in the record to indicate that the applicant filed a motion to reopen the director's decision.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on March 2, 2005, and indicated that she was re-registering for TPS.

The director denied the re-registration application because the applicant's initial TPS application had been denied and the applicant was not eligible to apply for re-registration for TPS.

On appeal, the applicant states that she registered for TPS during the initial registration period. The applicant also states that she responded to a request for additional evidence. In addition, the applicant also submits evidence in an attempt to establish that she responded to the request for additional evidence and evidence to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

In this case, the applicant has not previously been granted TPS. Therefore, she is not eligible to re-register for TPS. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed.

It is noted that the director's decision does not explore the possibility that the applicant was attempting to file a late initial application for TPS instead of an annual re-registration.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant may apply for TPS during the initial registration period, or:

- (f) (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 initial registration period for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001 through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed the current application with CIS on March 2, 2005.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period she fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

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 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).

On appeal, the applicant states that she initially registered for TPS during the initial registration period. According to the applicant, she received a request for additional evidence on June 23, 2004, and her response to that request was received by CIS on September 3, 2004. In support of this claim the applicant submits copies of United States Postal Service Certified Mail receipts dated September 12, 2003, and February 3, 2004, and an undated receipt. The receipts do not establish that the applicant responded to the June 23, 2004 request. The dated receipts appear to correspond to the dates that the applicant filed TPS applications for extension of temporary treatment benefits. The applicant also submits evidence in an attempt to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence. However, this does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file her TPS application within the initial registration period. Although the applicant previously submitted an application for TPS during the initial registration period, any Form I-821, subsequently submitted by the same applicant after an initial application is filed and a decision is rendered, must be considered as either a request for annual registration or a new filing for TPS benefits. Because the initial application was denied on October 4, 2004, this subsequent application can only be considered as an application for late registration

The applicant has failed to provide any evidence to establish that this application should be accepted as a late initial registration under 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). 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.