U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20529

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

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[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER Date: SEP 01 2006
[WAC 05 215 70081]

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:

[redacted]

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 and national 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 her initial TPS application on November 13, 2001, under CIS receipt number LIN 02 041 52285. On January 18, 2002, the Director, Nebraska Service Center (NSC), requested the applicant to submit evidence in order to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The NSC Director determined that the record did not contain a response from the applicant and therefore, denied the application on June 27, 2002, due to abandonment. It is noted that the NSC director's January 18, 2002, request and decision to deny the application were both sent to the applicant's last known address at [redacted] and were not returned to the Service as undeliverable.

On March 14, 2003, the applicant filed a subsequent TPS application, under CIS receipt number LIN 03 130 50508. On April 14, 2003, the NSC Director requested the applicant to submit evidence in order to establish her eligibility for TPS late registration and her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The director also requested the applicant to submit a copy of her birth certificate or passport. The NSC Director denied that application on May 30, 2003, because the applicant failed to establish her eligibility for TPS late registration and her identity as a citizen of El Salvador.

The applicant filed the instant Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on May 3, 2005.

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

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 Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed the instant application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on May 3, 2005.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period he or 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, counsel asserts the applicant's eligibility for TPS. Counsel also asserts that the Service erred in requiring proof of eligibility for TPS late initial registration. However, since the initial application was denied on June 27, 2002, the subsequent application filed on March 14, 2003, cannot be considered as a re-registration. Therefore, subsequent applications can only be considered as a 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 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.