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U.S. Citizenship
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[REDACTED]

JUN 27 2007

FILE:

[REDACTED]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date:

[EAC 05 225 70791]

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.

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

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The initial application was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center. The case is currently 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 director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish that he was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish his qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods.

On appeal, counsel asserts the applicant's 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 designated by the Attorney General 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.
- (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. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted with validity until September 9, 2007, 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 first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The record of proceedings confirms that the applicant filed his application after the initial registration period had closed. To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period he fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

On appeal, counsel states that the applicant's mother is a TPS registrant, and that he is therefore eligible for late registration. Counsel submitted as evidence a copy of the applicant's birth certificate with English translations, and a copy of the applicant's mother's Employment Authorization card, code A12.

The applicant has submitted sufficient documentation to establish that he has met the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision with respect to this issue will be withdrawn.

The second issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has submitted sufficient evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001 to May 13, 2005, the date of filing.

The director denied the TPS application on June 12, 2006, because the applicant had failed to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. On appeal, counsel implies that the applicant is eligible for TPS because his mother is a TPS registrant. Counsel also suggests that the applicant should be granted TPS for humanitarian reasons. The applicant indicated on his Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protective Status, Part 2 that he entered the United States illegally on January 10, 2005.

Contrary to counsel's assertions, while regulations may allow children of aliens who are TPS-eligible to file their applications after the initial registration period had closed, these regulations do not relax the requirements for eligibility for TPS as detailed in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(a) through (e). The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001; rather, he admitted that he did not enter the United States until January 10, 2005.

Although counsel implies that the applicant acquired "constructive residence" based upon his mother's residence in the United States, the applicant must submit sufficient independent evidence to demonstrate that he, not his mother, has continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and has been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. The applicant acquires no derivative status from his mother, nor does "constructive residence" apply under TPS regulations and statute.

The applicant has failed to establish that he 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 on these grounds will be affirmed.

Although counsel requests humanitarian relief, claiming the importance of family unity and maternal protection for a child, there are no further humanitarian provisions under the TPS program to provide for such relief.

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.