

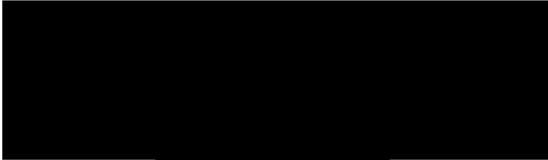
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Rm. 3000
Washington, DC 20529



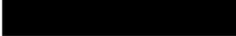
U.S. Citizenship
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Services

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FILE:



OFFICE: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

DATE: SEP 24 2007

[EAC 06 261 70012]

IN RE:

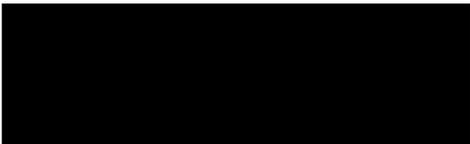
Applicant:



APPLICATION:

Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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.

for Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center. The application 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 he found the applicant inadmissible under section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the Act due to his drug-related conviction.

On appeal, the applicant states that he is presently in the process of having his conviction expunged.

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 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.

An alien shall not be eligible for temporary protected status under this section if the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security finds that the alien has been convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the United States. See Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a).

8 C.F.R. § 244.1 defines "felony" and "misdemeanor:"

Felony means a crime committed in the United States, punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, except: When the offense is defined by the State as a misdemeanor and the sentence actually imposed is one year or less regardless of the term such alien actually served. Under this exception for purposes of section 244 of the Act, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor.

Misdemeanor means a crime committed in the United States, either

- (1) Punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year or less, regardless of the term such alien actually served, if any, or
- (2) A crime treated as a misdemeanor under the term "felony" of this section.

For purposes of this definition, any crime punishable by imprisonment for a maximum term of five days or less shall not be considered a misdemeanor.

An alien is inadmissible if he has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude (other than a purely political offense), or if he admits having committed such crime, or if he admits committing an act which constitutes the essential elements of such crime. Section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Act.

An alien is inadmissible if he has been convicted of, or admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of (or a conspiracy to violate) any law or regulation of a State, the United States, or a foreign country relating to a controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC 802). Section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the Act.

The record reveals the following offenses:

- (1) On April 3, 1981, the applicant was convicted of "Residential Burglary", a felony.
- (2) On October 30, 1987, the applicant was convicted of "Selling a Controlled Substance, to wit Marijuana and Hashish", a felony.

On appeal, the applicant states that he is in the process of having his conviction expunged. According to the applicant, he was advised to plead guilty, the conviction was more than 20 years ago and since then he has been a person of good moral character.

The applicant is ineligible for TPS due to his two felony convictions, detailed above. 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for this reason will be affirmed.

The most commonly accepted definition of a crime involving moral turpitude is an act of baseness, vileness or depravity in the private and social duties which a man owes to his fellow men or to society in general, contrary to the accepted and customary rule of right and duty between man and man. *Jordan v. De George*, 341 U.S. 223, reh'g denied, 341 U.S. 956 (1951). The crime of (No. 1 above) involves moral turpitude. Therefore, the applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Act due to his [felony conviction/ misdemeanor convictions] detailed above.

The applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the Act due to his drug-related conviction detailed in No. 2 above.

Beyond the director's decision, it is noted that the applicant was deported to El Salvador on September 13, 1988. The applicant filed a Form I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the U.S. After Deportation or Removal on November 3, 2004. The District Director, Dallas, Texas on February 22, 2005, denied that application. The applicant filed an appeal of the director's decision on April 25, 2005. That appeal was rejected as untimely filed by the AAO on June 14, 2006.

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.