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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FILE:  Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date:

DEC 13 2010

IN RE: Applicant: 

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

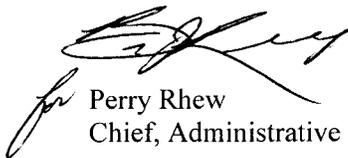
ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All of the documents related to this matter have been returned to the California Service Center. Please be advised that any further inquiry that you might have concerning your case must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied by us in reaching our decision, or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. The specific requirements for filing such a request can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. All motions must be submitted to the California Service Center by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$630. Please be aware that 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i) requires that any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen.

Thank you,



Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

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

The applicant claims to be a citizen of Haiti 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 he had continuously resided in the United States since January 12, 2010.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he has been visiting the United States since 2005, and that he had never overstayed his visa. The applicant requests that his application be reconsidered and that he be allowed to remain in the United States with his family until the conditions in Haiti improve.

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 as designated by the Attorney General, now the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security (Secretary), 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 Secretary 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.

The term *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 term *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 Haitians must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since January 12, 2010, and continuous physical presence in the United States since January 21, 2010.

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 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). 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).

Along with his TPS application, the applicant submitted a copy of his Haitian passport and his Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record, which reflects that he was admitted into the United States as a nonimmigrant visitor on January 18, 2010.

On July 13, 2010, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence since January 12, 2010 and continuous physical presence since January 21, 2010, in the United States. The applicant, in response, provided an additional copy of his Haitian passport along with the following photocopied documentation:

- Birth certificates of his twins born on March 7, 2008, in Florida.
- His social security card.
- A letter dated March 11, 2010, from the State of Florida Department of Children and Families.

- An airline ticket from Delta dated January 19, 2010.
- An ATM card and undated checks from Bank of America.
- An offense report from the North Miami Police Department dated June 12, 2009, which listed the mother of his children and his twins as victims/witnesses.
- A document dated January 18, 2010, from the Emergency Department of the Miami Children's Hospital.

The director determined that the applicant had submitted sufficient evidence to establish continuous physical presence since February 6, 2010, but she failed to establish continuous residence since January 12, 2010. Accordingly, on August 25, 2010, the director denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant asserts, in pertinent part:

I have always been here with the whole family. First we were at [REDACTED] New York at my aunt's house, and then we moved to Georgia at my cousin's house. Later we moved to Deerfield Beach at my best man apartment, and then we moved to my wife's sister apartment. Now we are at Orlando, Winter Park.

During my stay here, I went to Haiti in a hurry to avoid that a Bank put my name in the newspaper for failure to pay debt and most importantly I went to attend the funeral of my lovely cousin She was living with us at our home before the event.

The applicant, however, has not provided any credible evidence to establish that he was residing in the United States on or before January 12, 2010. Simply going on record without supporting documentary evidence is not sufficient for purposes of meeting the burden of proof in these proceedings. *Matter of Soffici*, 22 I&N Dec. 158, 165 (Comm. 1998) (citing *Matter of Treasure Craft of California*, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (Reg. Comm. 1972)). Therefore, the applicant has failed to establish that he has met the criteria described in section 244(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act and the related regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 244.2 (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS will be affirmed.

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.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.