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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

M1

[redacted]

MAR 29 2010

FILE: [redacted] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date:
[EAC 01 202 52672]

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 Vermont Service Center. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of $585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required by 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

Perry Rhew
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The applicant's Temporary Protected Status was withdrawn by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal.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 May 24, 2001, under receipt number EAC 01 202 52672. The Director, California Service Center, approved that application on October 17, 2003.

The director may withdraw the status of an alien granted Temporary Protected Status under section 244 of the Act at any time if it is determined that the alien was not in fact eligible at the time such status was granted, or at any time thereafter becomes ineligible for such status. 8.C.F.R. § 244.14(a)(1).

The director withdrew temporary protected status because the applicant had been convicted of two misdemeanors.

On appeal, counsel for the applicant states that the misdemeanors the applicant pled guilty to arose out of the same transaction and occurrence and should not be treated as various crimes for the purpose of a bar to TPS.

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. 8 C.F.R. § 244.1.

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.

The record reveals the following offenses:

(1) On May 8, 2005, the applicant was arrested by the Rockville [Maryland] Police Department for "Alc. Bev./Intox:Endanger."

(2) On December 10, 2005, the applicant was arrested by the Rockville [Maryland] Police Department for "Att 1st Degree Rape," "Assault – Sec Degree," Mal Dest Prop/Valu - $500," and "Alc Bev/Intox: Endanger." (

The record contains the final court disposition for the arrest No. (2) above. According to the final court disposition, on April 19, 2006, the applicant was convicted of two counts of "Assault Second Degree" and one count of "Malicious Destruction of Property," all misdemeanors.

The director withdrew temporary protected status because the applicant had been convicted of two or more misdemeanors

On appeal, counsel claims that the convictions arose out of a single transaction and should not be treated as various crimes. However, while the determination of whether the applicant's crimes arose "out of a single scheme of criminal misconduct" may be relevant to an individual's removability under section 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), this determination has no bearing on the applicant's eligibility for TPS. *Black's Law Dictionary,* 353 (7th Ed., 1999) defines the term "count" to mean a separate and distinct claim in a complaint or similar pleading. It also indicates that the term "count" is used to signify the part of an indictment charging a distinct offense. According to the court disposition, the applicant was charged with three separate violations to which he pled guilty to three separate crimes and the court ordered three separate punishments. Therefore, the applicant has been convicted of three separate and distinct misdemeanor offenses.

The applicant is, therefore, ineligible for TPS because of his misdemeanors convictions. 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a). Accordingly, the director's decision to withdraw TPS is affirmed.

Furthermore, it is noted that the applicant has provided insufficient evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence since February 13, 2001 and continuous physical presence from March 9, 2001 to

the filing date of the TPS application. Therefore, the application must be denied for these reasons as well.

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.