

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Administrative Appeals Office (AAO)
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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DATE: **JUL 28 2011** Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

FILE:

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 (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant claims to be a native and 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 had been convicted of a felony in the United States.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that he was wrongly convicted of the crime. The applicant claims, "I was coerced by public defender to take a plea in order to save the state money." The applicant asserts that he has retained an attorney to appeal the state conviction and to get the charge vacated.

An alien shall not be eligible for TPS 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).

"Felony" means a crime committed in the United States punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year, regardless of the term actually served, if any. There is an exception 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 actually served. Under this exception, for purposes of 8 C.F.R. § 244 of the Act, the crime shall be treated as a misdemeanor. 8 C.F.R. § 244.1.

The record contains court documentation in Case no. [REDACTED] from the Circuit Court of the 15th Judicial Court in Palm County, Florida, which reflects that on April 7, 2000, the applicant pled guilty to violating Florida Statute 812.13(1)(2)(b), robbery by sudden snatching, a felony of the third degree. Adjudication of guilt was withheld and the applicant was ordered to pay a fine and perform community service and was placed on probation for 24 months.

The applicant's statement on appeal has been considered. However, without certified documentation from the court indicating that the conviction has been vacated for underlying procedural or constitutional defect having to do with the merits of the case, the felony conviction continues to affect immigration consequences. *Matter of Pickering*, 23 I&N Dec. 621 (BIA 2003), *Matter of Roldan*, 22 I. & N. Dec. 512 (BIA 1999).

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)).

The applicant is ineligible for TPS due to his felony conviction. Section 244(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Act and 8 C.F.R. § 244.4(a). There is no waiver available, even for humanitarian reasons, of the requirements stated above. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for this reason 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.

While not the basis for the dismissal of the appeal, it is noted that the record reflects that the applicant was previously ordered excluded and deported from the United States.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.