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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 11 2012** 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. § 1254a

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 AAO inappropriately applied the law in reaching its decision, or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen in accordance with the instructions on Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$630. The specific requirements for filing such a motion can be found at 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. **Do not file any motion directly with the AAO.** Please be aware that 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i) requires any motion to 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 re-registration 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 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 re-registration application because the applicant had previously filed a frivolous asylum application and, therefore, she is permanently ineligible for any benefit under section 244 of the Act.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that she arrived in the United States by airplane in 1998 and that the individual who assisted with “my application made a mistake stated that I came by boat.” The applicant states that if she were to return to Haiti or Bahamas her life would be in great danger. The applicant requests that her TPS application be reconsidered and approved as she has a family to support.

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.

Section 208(d) of the Act states, in pertinent part:

- (4) Notice of privilege of counsel and consequences of frivolous application.
– At the time of filing an application for asylum, the Secretary shall –
 - (A) advise the alien of the privilege of being represented by counsel and of the consequences, under paragraph (6), of knowingly filing a frivolous application for asylum; and

- (B) provide the alien a list of persons (updated not less often than quarterly) who have indicated their availability to represent aliens in asylum proceedings on a pro bono basis.
- (6) Frivolous application – If the Secretary determines that an alien has knowingly made a frivolous application for asylum and the alien has received the notice under paragraph (4)(A), the alien shall be permanently ineligible for any benefits under this Act, effective as of the date of a final determination on such application.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 208.20 provides:

For applications filed on or after April 1, 1997, an applicant is subject to the provisions of section 208(d)(6) of the Act only if a final order by an immigration judge or the Board of Immigration Appeals specifically finds that the alien knowingly filed a frivolous asylum application. For purposes of this section, an asylum application is frivolous if any of its material elements is deliberately fabricated. Such finding shall only be made if the immigration judge or the Board is satisfied that the applicant, during the course of the proceedings, has had sufficient opportunity to account for any discrepancies or implausible aspects of the claim. For purposes of this section, a finding that an alien filed a frivolous asylum application shall not preclude the alien from seeking withholding of removal.

The record reflects that the applicant's Form I-589, Application for Asylum and Withholding of Removal, was filed on April 17, 2001. The Form I-589 advised the applicant that if it is determined that she knowingly filed a frivolous application for asylum she would be permanently ineligible for any benefits under the Act.

On July 10, 2001, the applicant signed a Record of Asylum Applicant's Oath, which informed her of the consequences of knowingly filing a frivolous asylum application pursuant to section 208(d)(4) of the Act. The document advised the applicant that if she knowingly filed a frivolous application for asylum, she would be permanently ineligible for any benefits under the Act. In affixing his signature on this document, the interpreter for the applicant indicated that the statements had been read to the applicant and that the applicant had acknowledged understanding the statements.

On March 26, 2003, a removal hearing was held and the applicant's applications for asylum and withholding of removal were denied and she was ordered removed from the United States. The oral decision of the immigration judge (IJ) indicates that the court found the applicant to have filed a frivolous application for asylum and, therefore, she was permanently barred from receiving any benefits under the Act. The applicant appealed the IJ's decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). On December 19, 2003, the BIA dismissed the applicant's appeal as moot.

Based upon the above finding, the director determined that the applicant was ineligible for TPS benefits and denied the application on March 27, 2012.

The applicant's statements on appeal have been considered. Regardless of the humanitarian and temporary nature of TPS, it is still a benefit. The AAO, however, is bound by the clear language of the statute and lacks the authority to change the statute. There is no waiver available, even for humanitarian reasons, due to the applicant's ineligibility pursuant to section 208(d)(6) of the Act. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the TPS application on this ground 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.