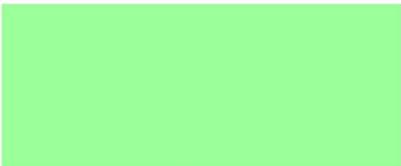


(b)(6)

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

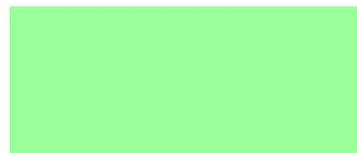


U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

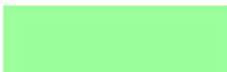


DATE: **MAY 28 2013**

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

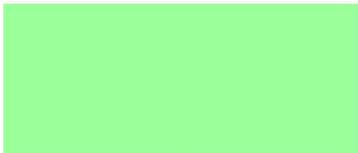


IN RE: Applicant:



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:

Enclosed please find the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Rosenberg".

Ron Rosenberg
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The applicant's Temporary Protected Status was withdrawn by the Director, Vermont Service Center. A subsequent appeal was dismissed by the Administrative Appeal Office (AAO). The applicant appealed the decision of the AAO. A motion to reopen, rather than an appeal, is the proper forum in this case, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i). The appeal, therefore, will be treated as a motion to reopen. The motion will be granted. The appeal will be sustained.

The applicant is a native and citizen of El Salvador who was granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

The director withdrew TPS because he found the applicant to be inadmissible under section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the Act due to his drug-related conviction. The AAO, in dismissing the appeal on December 22, 2011, found that the applicant had successfully completed the court ordered diversion provision; that he was not, prior to the commission of the drug offense, convicted of violating a federal or state law relating to controlled substances; and that he was not previously accorded first offender treatment under any law. However, no evidence was submitted to indicate that the drug charge against the applicant had been dismissed subsequent to the completion of the diversion program.

A motion to reopen must state the new facts to be provided and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(2).

On motion, counsel submits the complete court proceedings in Case no. 9FF02647 from the Los Angeles County Superior Court of California, which indicates that on April 4, 2011, the court terminated the deferred entry of judgment, set aside the applicant's plea and dismissed the case pursuant to section 1000.3 of the California Penal Code.

If (a) person's crime was a first-time drug offense, involved only simple possession or its equivalent, and the offense has been expunged under a state statute, the expunged offense may not be used as a basis for deportation." *Lujan-Armendariz V. INS*, 222 F. 3d 738 (9th Cir. 2000).

Lujan holds that the definition of conviction at section 101(a)(48) of the Act does not repeal the Federal First Offender Act (FFOA) or the rule that no alien may be deported based on an offense that could have been tried under the FFOA, but is instead prosecuted under state law, when the findings are expunged pursuant to a state rehabilitative statute. *Lujan*, 222 F.3d at 749.

The definition of conviction at section 101(a)(48)(A) of the Act applies to all crimes *except* simple possession of a controlled substance where the proceedings were dismissed or deferred under the FFOA or an equivalent state statute. As the applicant successfully completed a court order diversion program, the applicant cannot be found inadmissible under section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(2)(A)(i)(II).

The record does not reflect any grounds that would bar the applicant from maintaining TPS. Therefore, the director's decision to withdraw the applicant's TPS and the AAO's decision affirming the director's finding will be withdrawn, and the applicant's TPS will be reinstated.

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 met this burden.

ORDER: The appeal is sustained. The decisions of the director dated June 21 2011 and of the AAO dated December 22, 2011 are withdrawn