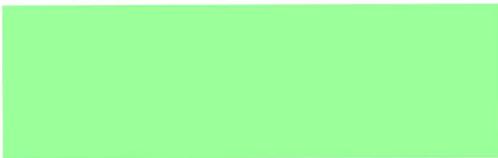


(b)(6)

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



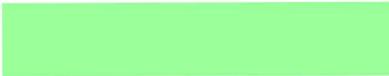
U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services



DATE: **FEB 25 2014**

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

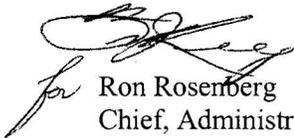
ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

INSTRUCTIONS:

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

This is a non-precedent decision. The AAO does not announce new constructions of law nor establish agency policy through non-precedent decisions. If you believe the AAO incorrectly applied current law or policy to your case or if you seek to present new facts for consideration, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen, respectively. Any motion must be filed on a Notice of Appeal or Motion (Form I-290B) within 33 days of the date of this decision. **Please review the Form I-290B instructions at <http://www.uscis.gov/forms> for the latest information on fee, filing location, and other requirements. See also 8 C.F.R. § 103.5. Do not file a motion directly with the AAO.**

Thank you,


for Ron Rosenberg
Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The applicant's Temporary Protected Status was withdrawn and an application for re-registration was simultaneously denied by the Director, California Service Center. The applicant has appealed the denial of the re-registration application and the matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO). The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Haiti 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 denied the application because the applicant had been convicted of a felony in the United States.

On appeal, the applicant apologizes for his previous wrongdoings. The applicant requests that his application be reconsidered as he has been residing in the United States for 23 years and has a family to support.

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.

"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.

The term 'conviction' means, with respect to an alien, a formal judgment of guilt of the alien entered by a court or, adjudication of guilt has been withheld, where - (i) a judge or jury has found the alien guilty or the alien has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or has admitted sufficient facts to warrant a finding of guilt, and (ii) the judge has ordered some form of punishment, penalty, or restraint on the alien's liberty to be imposed. Section 101(a)(48)(A) of the Act.

Section 101(a)(48)(B) of the Act provides, "any reference to a term of imprisonment or a sentence with respect to an offense is deemed to include the period of incarceration or confinement ordered by a court of law regardless of any suspension of the imposition or execution of that imprisonment or sentence in whole or in part."

The record contains court documentation in Case no [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED] Judicial Circuit Court, in and for [REDACTED] Florida, which indicates that on June [REDACTED] 2013, the applicant pled nolo contendere to driving under the influence, a misdemeanor of the first degree, and carrying a concealed firearm, a felony of the third degree. The applicant was adjudged guilty for violating Florida Statute 316.193(1) and was placed on probation for one year, ordered to pay a fine, court costs and attend a DUI school and perform community service. Adjudication of guilt was withheld for violating Florida Statute 790.01(2), carrying a concealed firearm. The applicant was placed on probation for two years and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

As cited above, for immigration purposes, a felony is a crime “*punishable* by imprisonment for . . . more than one year, *regardless of the term . . . actually served.*” [Emphasis added.] The operative word is “punishable,” which indicates that a misdemeanor is defined under the regulation by the maximum imprisonment possible for the crime under Florida law, not a specific prison term meted out by the judge in a particular case.

In the instant case, the court documentation reflects that the applicant pled nolo contendere to charges and the judge ordered some form of penalty to each charge. Therefore, for immigration purposes, the applicant has been convicted of the felony and misdemeanor offenses within the meaning of section 101(a)(48)(A) of the Act.

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). The applicant’s statements made on appeal have been considered. Nevertheless, there is no waiver available, even for humanitarian reasons, of the requirements stated above. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the 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.