



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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Press Release

DHS Concludes Temporary Protected Status For Nationals of Montserrat *Employment Authorization Documents Extended for Six Months*

Washington, D.C- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today announced the conclusion of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals of Montserrat and a six month extension of Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) until February 27, 2005. Approximately, 292 nationals of Montserrat who presently receive benefits under the Montserrat TPS designation will be affected.

After reviewing country conditions and consulting with the appropriate Government agencies, Tom Ridge, Secretary of DHS has determined that conditions in Montserrat no longer support the TPS designation and is therefore terminating the TPS designation of Montserrat. This termination is effective February 27, 2005, six months from the end of the current extension.

Upon the conclusion of TPS status, former TPS beneficiaries return to the same immigration status they maintained before registering for TPS (unless that status has since expired or been terminated), or to any other status they may have acquired while registered for TPS.

Accordingly, if an individual maintained no lawful status prior to receiving TPS benefits, and did not obtain any other status during the TPS period, he or she will revert to that unlawful status upon the termination of the TPS designation for Montserrat. Such individuals are expected to depart the United States on or before February 27, 2005. Those who do not comply with this requirement may be subject to removal.

Former TPS beneficiaries will no longer be eligible for a stay of removal or an Employment Authorization Document pursuant to the TPS program. TPS-related employment documents expire on February 27, 2004, and will not be renewed.

The conclusion of the TPS designation for Montserrat does not necessarily affect pending applications for other forms of immigration relief or protection. Former beneficiaries may begin to accrue unlawful presence as of February 27, 2005 if they have not been granted any other immigration status or protection, or if they have no pending application for certain benefits. Individuals who accrue certain periods of unlawful presence in the United States may be barred from admission to the United States for a specified period of time.

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