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U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536

[redacted]

File: [redacted] Office: Texas Service Center Date: FEB 28 2003

IN RE: Applicant: [redacted]

Application: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. §1254

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

PUBLIC COPY

INSTRUCTIONS:
This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. §103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. *Id.*

Any motion must be filed with the office that originally decided your case along with a fee of $110 as required under 8 C.F.R. §103.7.

Pamela Eastenby
for

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Honduras who indicated on his application that he entered the United States without a lawful admission or parole on November 10, 1998. The director denied the application for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. §1254, because the applicant failed to establish he had: 1) continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998; and 2) been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999.

On appeal, the applicant states that he is not sure why he was denied TPS status. The applicant claims he sent all of the necessary paperwork and would like to be able to have his case examined further. According to the applicant, he is from Honduras and has complied with all of the required forms and dates that are needed to be considered for his TPS status. The applicant contends that he has been in the United States since November 1998 but that he had to go to Honduras for a brief time because of a family crisis. The applicant says that he was detained by the Service upon his return and was given a court date. The applicant maintains that he did not appear for the court appointment. He says he is not sure what is the best recourse to make his case.

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 designated by the Attorney General is eligible for temporary protected status only if such alien establishes that he or she:

(a) Is a national, as defined in section 101(a)(21) of the Act, of a foreign 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 Attorney General 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; and

(f) (1) Registers for TPS during the initial registration period announced by public notice in the *Federal Register*, or

(2) During any subsequent extension of such designation if at the time of the initial registration period:

(i) The applicant is a nonimmigrant or has been granted voluntary departure status or any relief from removal;

(ii) The applicant has an application for change of status, adjustment of status, asylum, voluntary departure, or any relief from removal which is pending or subject to further review or appeal;

(iii) The applicant is a parolee or has a pending request for reparole; or

(iv) The applicant is a spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant.

Continuously physically present means actual physical presence in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States by virtue of brief, casual, and innocent absences as defined within this section.

Continuously resided means residing in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous residence in the United States by reason of brief, casual, and innocent absence as defined within this section or due merely to a brief temporary trip abroad required by emergency or extenuating circumstances outside the control of the alien.

Brief, casual, and innocent absence means a departure from the United States that satisfies the following criteria:

(1) Each such absence was of short duration and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose(s) for the absence;

(2) The absence was not the result of an order of deportation, an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure without the institution of deportation proceedings; and

(3) The purposes for the absence from the United States or actions while outside of the United States were not contrary to law.

Persons applying for TPS offered to Hondurans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that they have been continuously physically present

in the United States since January 5, 1999. On May 11, 2000, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until July 5, 2001, and subsequently a second extension of the designation until July 5, 2002. The Attorney General announced a third extension of the TPS designation until July 5, 2003.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he or she meets the above requirements. Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by the Service. 8 C.F.R. §244.9(a). The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. To meet his or her burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his or her own statements. 8 C.F.R. §244.9(b).

The applicant is not eligible for TPS as a Honduran because he arrived in the United States subsequent to the eligibility period. Although the applicant professes his entry into the United States in November 1998, he has failed to establish this claim. Service records indicate that the applicant was encountered by the Service on July 11, 2001. At that time, the applicant stated that he left Honduras on June 17, 2001. The only evidence provided by the applicant to support his claim of residence and continuous presence in the United States is a letter from Edith Reyes in which she stated that the applicant rented a room from her since November 22, 1998. The applicant has not provided any additional supporting documentation. Therefore, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

An alien applying for temporary protected status 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.

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ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.