



A Guide to Panama Resident Programs

Investors Resident Visa, Retired Persons Incentive Program and Second Passport Program

HONG KONG

PANAMA

PRAGUE

Permanent Residence Based on Personal Income

Anyone interested in residing in Panama, will need a place to live, etc. So, it is best to organize a visit as soon as possible. The client will be able to search for a place to live and Aspen Legal Services can get all the local paperwork done, go to the bank, sign notarial deeds if property is purchased, etc.

We can arrange for the client to meet a professional relocations expert who can assist him in finding apartments or houses for sale in Panama City. Assuming the client sends all documents correctly, duly notarized, translated if necessary, and *Apostilled*, then, there are no additional fees. However, additional fees and couriers are sometimes incurred and we'll bill them separately.

50% of the total fees must be paid in advance to begin the process. Most government fees, warranties, stamp duties and repatriation deposits, etc. are paid in the beginning of the process.

Type of Visa Scheme

The applicant deposits USD\$300,000 in a 3-year Certificate of Deposit (CD) in a local bank which qualifies him as an investor US\$300,000.00, then s/he is eligible to apply as an investor in Panama with Personal Income/wealth (Rentas Propias).

There are 3 ways in which the income required to secure this visa can be declared:

1. \$300,000 in a time deposit in a local bank in Panama;
2. Purchase a house or apartment in Panama. The total cost of the property must be at least US\$300,000 and the title must be held in the applicant's own name; or
3. 50% of each of the above, together adding up to \$300,000.00.

If the application includes dependents, then the investment contribution must increase by Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per dependent.

Under this scheme, you cannot purchase the house in the name of an offshore or Panama Company. The house must be in the name of the applicant.

The Process

1. Register the applicant (and dependants) at the Immigration Department.
2. We prepare the bank account and assist in everything necessary for this process. However, the client will need to go to the bank in person.
3. We prepare the Immigrant Visa as an Investor with Personal Income application (and dependents).
4. Receive the temporary permit for a 3-month period and then pick up the Immigrant Visa and Immigrant card (Provisional Residency Permit) from the Immigration Department;
5. Before expiration of the 2-year Provisional Residency Permit, the applicant must apply for Permanent Residency as an Immigrant Investor (Personal Income);

6. Another temporary permit is issued while your application for Permanent Residence is processed.
7. Immigration Department will grant Permanent Residency and will send authorization to the Civil Registry authorizing the issuance of a cédula (Panama identity card);
8. We collect the cédula at the Civil Registry
9. After 5 years of Permanent Residence, you are eligible for naturalization and citizenship.

Documents Required

1. Passport copy, duly authenticated by a Panamanian Public notary and *Apostilled*; or duly authenticated by the Panamanian Consulate or Embassy in the country it was issued.
2. Four (4) passport-size photos.
3. Original passport, which must be valid for at least six (6) months.
4. Police Report duly *Apostilled* or duly authenticated by the Panamanian Consulate or Embassy in the country it was issued and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Panama.
5. Medical Certificate of Good Health.
6. Cashier checks for payment to the National Treasury and to the Immigration Office for Repatriation Deposit. We will arrange to obtain these.
7. Sworn Declaration Form.
8. Power of Attorney and Application issued on behalf of Aspen Legal Services.

Additional documents required

1. Letter from local bank certifying the existence of the 3-year term CD with a minimum deposit of US\$300 thousand. The letter must state that the funds were received from abroad.
2. Copy of the term deposit contract, certified by the bank.
3. Public Registry Certificate showing ownership of the property which will be used instead or jointly with cash.

Documents required for dependants

1. Letter of responsibility: applicant states he is responsible for the dependent.
2. Proof of relationship: marriage or birth certificate.

Additional documents required for application for permanent residence

1. Certificate of Good standing issued by the Panama Income Tax Authority. All dependents must also apply.

Pensionado /Retiree Program

This program is designed for any foreigner who receives a retirement pension from a foreign government, international organization, or private company, who wishes to reside in Panama and has the sufficient means to support themselves and cover all personal needs and expenses as well as those of the spouse and other dependents.

The retired person must receive a monthly income or pension of at least one thousand dollars (US\$1,000.00) per month and said minimum amount must be received "for life". If the applicant proves he has purchased property for at least US\$ 100 thousand dollars, in their own name in the Republic of Panama, then the pension may be for seven hundred and fifty dollars (US\$750.00). The amount of the pension can be expressed in its equivalent in other currencies.

The Process

Aspen Legal Services shall complete all required applications.

A power of attorney is required to begin the application process.

You shall be issued a document granting you the right of abode in Panama. This program does not entitle you to a passport.

Documents Required

1. Letter from foreign government, international organization or private company certifying the applicant is retired or pensioned and confirming amount of the pension.
2. Each dependent incurs an additional two hundred and fifty Dollars (US\$250.00) which must be received in the pension.
3. Certification from the Public Registry for the property (if applicable).
4. If the pension or retirement is from a private company, provide the following documentation:
 1. Letter from the foreign company that administers the pension funds, the trust, the mutual funds, the insurance or the bank, certifying the fund exists and demonstrate the lifetime pension of the applicant;
 2. Certificate of Good Standing of the fund company;
 3. Copy of the payment receipt or bank statement.
5. All documents issued overseas must be duly authenticated by the Panamanian Consulate or Embassy in the country where issue and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Panama or duly *Apostilled*.
6. If the spouse is also a pensioner, both may wish to substantiate their income in the manner described above.

7. Dependent children shall obtain temporary permits until the age of 25, as long as they continue to study. Adult dependent children shall have the right to reside but shall not be entitled under this scheme to apply for permanent residence nor shall they be considered pensioners. Therefore, they shall not be entitled to any of the benefits afforded the pensioners. Exceptions shall be made for dependent adult children with a permanent serious disability, duly evidenced.

Benefits of the Pensionado Visa

The Pensionado has many exciting benefits when residing in Panama:

1. Import of tax exempt automobile every 2 years.
2. Import of household goods is tax exempt up to US\$10,000.
3. Tax freeze on property taxes.
4. Many other tax exemptions and discounts in the local market.

Second Passport Program

This program allows foreigners to obtain immediate Panamanian Passport as a travel document. This is not a citizenship program.

The applicant must make a 5 year certificate of deposit (CD), at the Banco Nacional de Panama at a rate which earns a minimum of US \$750 per month in interest income. Currently, to obtain this rate, the term deposit is approximately, US \$175,000.

This is a relatively simple, direct program. A visit to Panama is required. One must already have a valid passport that enables them to come into Panama.

The visa and passport is renewable every five years, which requires the CD to be renewed.

	Fee in US Dollars
Immigration Services	
Pensionado Visa	
(Permanent) Principal Applicant	2,000.00
Each Dependent	1200.00
Government Fees & Costs per Person	600.00
Self Sufficient Funds Visa	
1 st Year Temporary Visa for Principal	2,900.00
1 st Year Temporary Visa for each Dependent	2,000.00
Government Fees & Costs per Person	1,550.00
2 nd Year Permanent Visa for Principal	2,900.00
2 nd Year Permanent Visa for each Dependent	2,000.00
Government Fees & Costs per Person	1,550.00
All Investor Visas	
1 st Year Temporary Visa for Principal	3,500.00
1 st Year Temporary Visa for each Dependent	2,700.00
Government Fees & Costs per Person	1,600.00
Subsequent Years Permanent Visa for Principal	3,500.00
Subsequent Years Permanent Visa for each Dependent	2,700.00
Government Fees & Costs per Person	1,600.00
Second Passport Program	
Special nationalities	15,000.00
Expenses	5,500.00
Usual Nationalities	13,200.00
Expenses	4,000.00

These fees are only a guide. Government fees may vary. You should request an updated quotation at the time you request our services.

OUR OBSERVATIONS

There are several second citizenship programs or permanent residence programs available in the world today. Panama's second passport affords you the convenience to travel to many countries without the need of a visa. Panama is exempted from visas to all of Europe and the former colonies and current dependencies of said countries. A Panamanian passport holder does not require visas to travel to Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, and many other countries in Asia. The permanent resident programs give you an opportunity to live in a country that does not tax foreign sourced income; this can result in great tax savings, asset protection, and the protection of your way of life. Panama is in the heart of Central America; it is a compact, modern city only minutes away from both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans and the most exciting flora and fauna you've ever seen. Panama has excellent medical care and resources. The currency in Panama is the U.S. Dollar. Panama is Central America's most developed and sophisticated banking center and boasts ample service experience. Its key geographical location makes it accessible to the rest of the American continent and easily to the rest of the world. It is a multi-cultural, multi-racial, religiously tolerant society and a place where most feel at home.

The foregoing does not constitute legal advice and it is merely Aspen Global Incorporations opinion based on use and experience. If you are not a professional service provider, please consult a tax attorney, solicitor, and/or accountant before you pursue any venture in a tax free environment. Aspen Global Group will be glad to meet with you and assess your requirements. Legal evaluations in each jurisdiction are available at a time cost fee.

If you would like additional information on this jurisdiction or our current shelf list, please contact us at enquiries@aspenoffshore.com; or contact any of our offices.

HONG KONG

Suite 2302-3 Pacific Plaza
410 Des Voeux Road West
Hong Kong, S.A.R.
Tel: (852) 3175 8758
Fax: (852) 3175 8456
E-mail: enquiries@aspenoffshore.com

PANAMA

Aspen Legal Services
Local 11-12 Causeway Blvd. Commercial Center
Isla Perico, Panamá City
Republic of Panamá
Tel: (507) 314 3392
E-mail: silka@aspenpanama.com

PRAGUE

Opletalova 1603/57
110 00 Praha 1
Česká republika
Tel: (420) 221 419 747
E-mail: prague@aspenoffshore.com