

## Permanent Residence Permit under the "Friendly Nations" Programm

**Moving to a country where other people go on holiday? Looking for a personal Plan B? Or do you want to fulfill your life dream and open a hostel or restaurant on the beach?**

In May 2012 the previous president of Panama Ricardo Martinelli issued a Presidential Decree declaring that **“citizens of friendly nations with professional and economic ties with the Republic of Panama”** could apply for **permanent residency in Panama**. Since then, other Decrees have increased the number of the “friendly nations” to 50 countries.

**The 50 Friendly Nations are:** Great Britain, Germany, Argentina, Australia, Republic of Korea, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Spain, USA, Slovakia, France, Finland, Netherlands, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Singapore, Uruguay, Chile, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Portugal, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Cyprus, Malta, Serbia, Montenegro, Israel, Denmark, South Africa, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Andorra, San Marino, Taiwan, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay.

### General Requirements (for main applicant and all dependents):

**1. Photocopy of the complete valid passport:** including the photo page (that shows the picture, name, date of birth, passport number, place of issuance, etc.) and all other pages. **The copy must be authenticated by a Panamanian Notary.** Please note, that the passport must be valid for at least six (6) months from the date of filing the application at the National Migration Service of Panama.

**2. Police Clearance Certificate,** issued by the competent authority in the country of origin or permanent residence: For any Residency application, the Panamanian National

Migration Service requires an authenticated Criminal History Report issued by a “federal”, “central”, or “national” police force or criminal investigation authority.

In the past, the National Migration Service used to accept local police reports from county sheriffs, city police, and constables, however after changes in the Law all criminal reports must be issued by the national investigative authority of the country of citizenship of the applicant, or the country where the applicant has been a permanent resident for the previous five (5) years. This means that the applicant’s Criminal History Report must cover the entire country in which he or she is from, and the document must be authenticated by Apostille or by the Panamanian Consulate in that country.

**In the USA, this would be the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).** In Canada it would be the Royal Canadian Mounties (RCMP). In England, it would be The Association of Chief Police Officers.

**All applicants must be of good repute and, regardless of their country of origin, must not have any criminal record in the USA - FBI Register.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The Police Report is valid for six (6) months (unless stated otherwise), except if the applicants LEAVES THE PANAMANIAN TERRITORY. If the applicant leaves Panama, the Police Report loses its validity automatically. **The certification must be duly authenticated (Apostille).**

**3. Certificate of Good Health** issued by a licensed physician in Panama. The certification must not be older than three (3) months.

**4. State application fees:**

4.1. Cashier's check for USD\$ 250 in favour of the National Treasury (application fee) per applicant.

4.2. Cashier's check for USD\$ 800 in favour of the National Migration Service (repatriation deposit) per applicant.

The checks are not refundable by the State of Panama, no matter if the application was assessed positively or negatively. *Note: Children under twelve (12) years of age are excluded from the USD\$800 Repatriation Deposit.*

**5. Affidavit** (application form with personal data).

**6. Five (5) passport sized photos** (white background)

**7. Power of Attorney and Formal Application.**

**Additional Requirements (for main applicant ONLY):**

**8. Proof of “Economic Activity”:** A professional or economic relationship must be established and proved. This requirement can be accomplished by **founding a new business (corporation) in Panama, purchasing an existing business** or being hired to work for a Panamanian company. **The purchase of real estate in Panama is no longer accepted as “proof of economic activity” by the National Migration Service.**

**9. Proof of Economic Solvency: Bank reference letter** not older than thirty (30) days, issued by a Panamanian Bank showing a balance of **at least US\$5,000 (PLUS US\$2,000 for each dependent) in a Panamanian Bank Account.**

**10. Copy of a second identification document (e.g. driver's license or identity card) of all (adult) applicants.**

**If Applying as a Couple of Family the following documents must be submitted:**

**11. Proof of the family relationship: marriage certificate/ birth certificate for children.** The certification must not be older than six (6) months. The certification must be duly authenticated (Apostille).

**12. Declaration of liability (duly notarized).** *Only necessary if the application is made as a married couple/family.*

**13. Proof of domicile in Panama:** electricity bill and (notarized) lease. Rental period at least one year. *Only necessary if the application is made as a married couple/family.*

**IMPORTANT! Authentication and translation of foreign documents:**

- A. All documents NOT issued in Panama must be duly authenticated (by Apostille or Diplomatic Authentication).
- B. Documents NOT issued in Spanish must be translated into Spanish by a licensed Panamanian interpreter.