

Panama's Easiest Residency The "Specific Countries" Program

(It Even Leads To A Work Permit)

By The Editors of Live and Invest Overseas



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As it was written originally, the decree President Martinelli issued in May 2012 addressed only residency for citizens of the then two-dozen countries on the list. It didn't reference what was in fact the point--work permits for these folks.

Again, the program was put together hastily. At first there was a catch-22 with the Immigration Department and the Labor Department both needing documentation from each other in order to initiate their respective ends of the deal. After the initial confusion and a temporary work-around solution, a new straight-forward clarification has been issued: as it stands now, the work permit application can be initiated only after permanent residency has been granted, which, again, will take 6 to 8 months. If your immediate goal is a work permit, this can be problematic, but this is an *indefinite* work permit, something only obtainable in Panama...a true Holy Grail.

Rapidly Moving Target

Through all of this, please be advised: the rules can (and do) change fast.



Fortunately, though, this permit grants permanent residency immediately and it's not necessary to renew the permit multiple times. Should the President revoke the order, those who have obtained residency under this new program shouldn't have a problem; Panama has a history of grandfathering people already in the system.

Since this program has been and remains subject to amendments, it is necessary that you work with a lawyer during the application process. You will need the following documents to process your application:

- Valid passport from one of the 48 countries
- Identity card or driver's license
- Police Record (FBI background check for US citizens)
- Panamanian Health Certificate (acquired in Panama)
- 6 passport photos
- Marriage Certificate
- Birth Certificates of dependents under age 18

Take Action NOW

If Panama is on your radar and you're from one of the friendly 50 countries on the list, this is the best opportunity and now is the best time you're going to have to obtain easy and quick permanent residency in this country...even a work permit. Assume it will all go away soon.