



Abogados & Notarios

COSTA RICA DRIVER'S LICENSE

VALIDATION OF FOREIGN DRIVER'S LICENSES IN COSTA RICA.- HOW TO OBTAIN MY DRIVER'S LICENSE IN COSTA RICA - IMMIGRATION AND RELOCATION SERVICES - COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS.- One of the main concerns of any foreign citizen coming to Costa Rica is being able to drive a vehicle. Foreign citizens coming as tourists are authorized to drive using their foreign driver's licenses while they are under their Tourists Visas. Nevertheless, in the case of foreign nationals residing in Costa Rica, to be able to drive a vehicle in Costa Rica soil, they need to validate their foreign driving permits and apply for a Costa Rican Driver's License. When applying for the first time, foreign drivers must apply for a B1 Drivers' License, which is the one that allows driving your persona vehicle (automobile, SUV, pick-up truck, etc). To apply for this permit, you must provide the following documents:

Valid residency card. If you have not applied for a residency yet, you need to do it before you can apply for your Driver's License. For more information on residencies, please consult our "*Immigration Categories*" section and our "*Immigration Requirements and FAQs*" section.

- Valid passport, which must show that you have been in Costa Rica for more than three months in a row without leaving the country.
- Medical certificate proving that you are suitable to drive a vehicle. This certificate can be obtained in many different places all over the country.
- Receipt of you bank deposit for the cost of the Drivers' License card.

The Driver's License validation process is done at COSEVI's main offices, located in La Uruca, San José. COSEVI stands for "*Consejo de Seguridad Vial*" (Highway Security Council, in English) and is the government entity in charge of granting Drivers' License approvals and convalidations.

If you are in currently living in Costa Rica under a tourist visa and struggling to obtain your Drivers' License, we highly recommend that you initiate your legal residency application process the soonest possible. Unless you proceed accordingly, you will not be able to obtain your Costa Rican Driver's License.

In case you should need further assistance with these and other Immigration or Relocation matters, do not hesitate to contact us at info@costarica-law.com.