



Abogados & Notarios

## IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS AND FAQs

**COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS - COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION LAW - RESIDENCIES - WORKING PERMITS - VISAS - COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS - COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION SERVICES** - There are specific and special requirements for each of kind of immigration permit or application. Notwithstanding the above, all applications must include:

- Certificate of criminal records issued in the applicant's country of origin. In the case of U.S. the certificate must come from the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and not from the local police of the place of residency of the applicant.
- Birth certificate of each applicant, issued by the corresponding authority where the birth occurred.
- Marital status certificate. If the applicant is married, the certificate must be issued in the country in which the wedding took place.
- Certified copies of all pages of the applicant's passport, with a valid and good standing tourism visa.
- Consular registration issued by the Consulate of the applicant's country in Costa Rica. Should there not be a Consulate of this country in Costa Rica, a certificate from the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicating such circumstance must be attached to the application.
- Fingerprints registration. This procedure is completed in Costa Rica before the Ministry of Security.

### **FAQs:**

**WHICH LANGUAGE SHOULD BE USED IN DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS AND APPLICATIONS?** The official language in Costa Rica is Spanish. All documents required may be prepared in the official language of their country of origin, but must be filed with their respective translation to Spanish. N&A provides complementary translation services.



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**WHAT REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENTS COMING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES MUST MEET IN ORDER TO BE USED IN COSTA RICA?** All documents issued by a foreign authority must be duly legalized and authenticated. Costa Rica is a signatory of International Treaty 8923, also known as the Apostille Convention or the Hague Treaty, intended to simplify the legalization proceedings. Documents sealed with the “Apostille” in their country of origin will be valid and effective in Costa Rica without further legalizations. Should your country not be a party to such Treaty, the document will require legalization by the Costa Rican Consulate.

**WHAT IS THE DURATION OF AN IMMIGRATION APPLICATION OR PROCEEDING?** Immigration authorities in Costa Rica are generally not as fast and expedite as one would hope. Notwithstanding the above, there is no reason for any process should to take years to be completed if the applicant complies with all due requirements. Should you want your registration or naturalization process to be completed as quickly as possible, we strongly suggest you seek the knowledgeable and practical assistance of our Immigration experts.

If you should need further information or assistance, please contact us at: [info@costarica-law.com](mailto:info@costarica-law.com).