



Abogados & Notarios

## STOPPING DEPORTATION

**HOW TO STOP DEPORTATION FROM COSTA RICA – COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION LAW – COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS – IMMIGRATION SERVICES – COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS.**– There are many circumstances under which Costa Rican Immigration Police may initiate a deportation process against a foreign citizen. The most common, as we explain below, are when the individual is found working under a tourist visa, or when he or she was under a criminal investigation. In both cases, deportation can be stopped if the proper steps are taken and the corresponding requirements are met. Of course, specialized legal counseling is necessary to increase the chances of success. As follows we explain what needs to be in those circumstances:

**WHEN A FOREIGN CIRIZEN IS FOUND WORKING UNDER A TOURIST VISA:** As explained in our post on the “*PERMANENT TORIST*”, working in Costa Rica under a tourist visa is illegal. When an individual is found working under those circumstances, it is usual for the Immigration Police to take away his or her passport. The first thing to do then, is recover it. To achieve that, Immigration Police has to be provided with an explanation and the corresponding evidence showing why the individual was working in Costa Rica; i.e., because the foreign national owns a company or business in Costa Rica, has investments in our country or if he or she has Costa Rican children or is married with a Costa Rican citizen. After having done this, in about three to four weeks, Immigration Police will issue a decision in which they allow the foreign citizen to file the residency application, which has to be initiated within one month’s time. Also, it is important to mention that Immigration Police may require the applicant to leave the country for 72 hours to renew his or her tourist visa before filing the residency application. Check our PERMANTENT TOURIST section for more information.

**WHEN THE FOREIGN CITIZEN WAS UNDER CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION:** When a criminal investigation is conducted against a foreign national, it is usual for our judicial authorities to order a restriction to prevent him or her from leaving the country. Since criminal cases usually take longer than the time granted in their tourist visas, by the time the criminal case is dismissed and the restriction is cancelled, the tourist visa will have probably expired, causing the individual’s stay in Costa Rica to be illegal. In those cases, Immigration Police has to be provided with proof of the existence and dismissal of the criminal case and with a formal petition to allow the legalization of the individual’s immigration status.

There may be other circumstances under which a foreign national may be deported; however, the ones mentioned above are the most common. If you should require assistance with a deportation process, do not hesitate to contact us at [info@costarica-law.com](mailto:info@costarica-law.com), and we will gladly assist you.