

COSTA RICA IMMIGRATION

Applying for Legal Residency with the Department of Immigration

Prepared by Lic. Roger A. Petersen

San Jose, Costa Rica

Tel: (506) 2288-2189 Ext. 101

Fax: (506) 2228-7094

E-mail: admin@plawcr.com

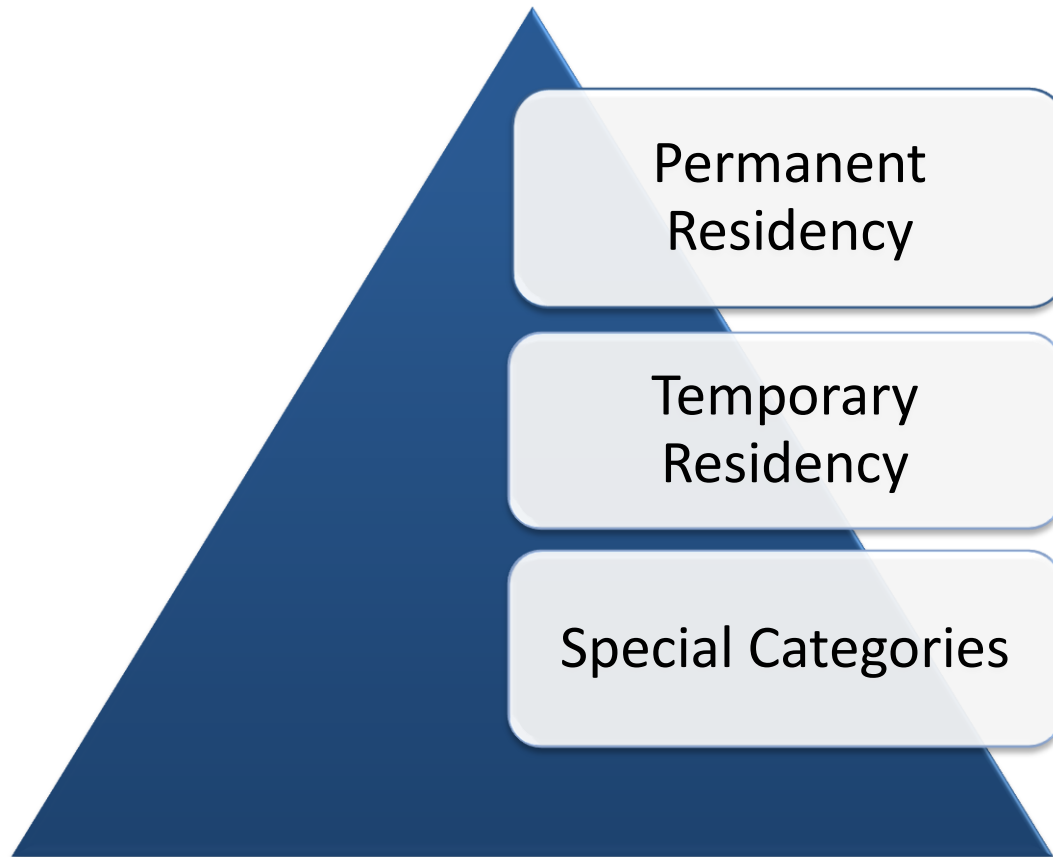
www.plawcr.com

The Immigration Law of Costa Rica

***Immigration Law in Costa Rica is regulated by the :
Ley de Migración Y Extranjería Law No. 8764***

***This law has been in effect since
March 1, 2010***

The Residency Categories



Permanent Residency

Title VI, Ch. I, Art. 77-78

Family Ties to
Costa Rica Citizen

- *Parents
- *Minor Children
- *Minor Siblings

Change from
Temporary Status

Must have had
Temporary Status for 3
Years.

Temporary Residency Ch. II Art. 79

Most people that apply for residency will do so under the Temporary Residency category since Permanent Residency is reserved for those with a family tie to a Costa Rica citizen or those that have had Temporary Residency for 3 years.

The Following are Temporary Residency Categories:

PENSIONADO (Retiree) Art. 79 (10)

RENTISTA Art. 79 (9)

INVESTOR Art. 79 (4)

Temporary Residency Ch. II Art. 79

Spouse of a Costa Rican Citizen Art. 79 (1)

Executives, Managers, Technical Personnel for Corporations engaged in activities deemed as priority investment. Art. 79 (3)

Scientific, Professional and Specialized persons. Art. 79 (5)

Sports figures recognized by the National Council on Sports.
- Art. 79 (6)

International Press. – Art. 79 (7)

Special Immigration Categories

- Students
- Refugees
- Political Asylum
- Trans Border Laborers
- Temporary Laborers
- Entertainment Artists / Performers

What Residency Category Should You Apply For ?

The easiest one that you qualify for



Pensionado Residency

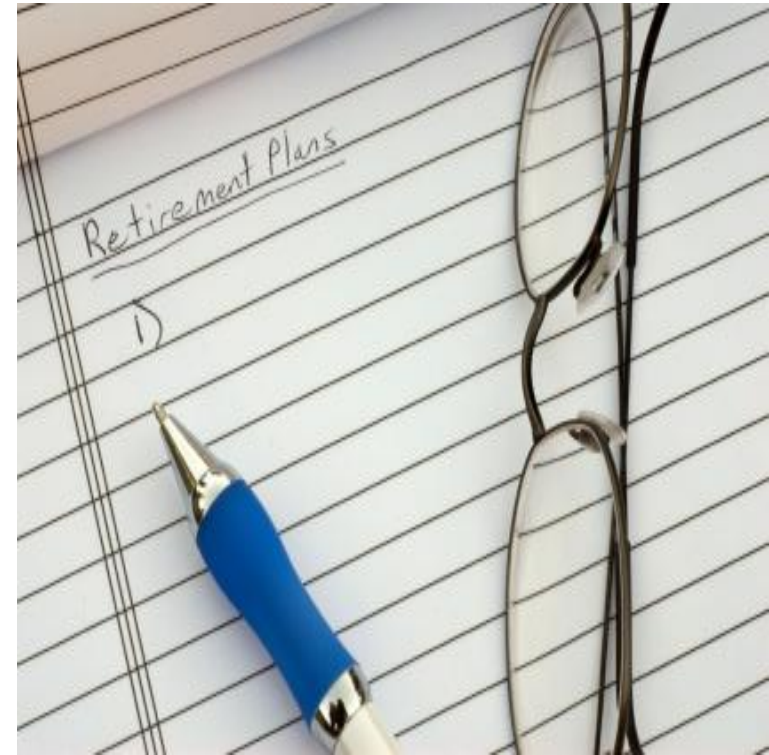
Legal Basis Art. 79 & 81 of Law 8764

Show proof of a Pension

Amount: **US\$ 1,000**
per month

This amount qualifies you and your spouse

Examples: Social Security,
Disability, Private Pension or
Government Pension



Rentista Status

Legal Basis Art. 79 & 82 of Law 8764

Provide Proof of Investment Income

At least **US\$ 2,500** per month.



This Qualifies the entire family – spouse and children

Examples : Bank investment,
Brokerage account, Deposit
funds with a Costa Rican Bank

You will need a Letter issued by a Bank, Financial Institution, Brokerage indicating that you receive US\$2,500 per month in a stable manner.

Investor Status

Legal Basis Art. 79 (4) of Law 8764

Investment Amount Required: **US\$200,000**

The granting of this status is DISCRETIONARY by the Department of Immigration

If you apply for this category you must clearly document the investment and provide Certified Financial statements regarding the investment made

The previous immigration law EXCLUDED personal investments such as purchasing a home or property. It appears that under the new law this exclusion may be relaxed but the new immigration directives have not been issued. If you apply for this category check up with the guidelines before you apply.



Preparing the Residency Application

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Application

Required Personal Information

- Name of Applicant
- Nationality
- Passport Number
- Date of Birth
- Occupation
- Name and Nationality of Parents
- Address
- Point of Entry into Costa Rica

Income Information

- Source of Income
- Amount of Income

APPLICATON FOR PENSIONADO RESIDENCY

APPLICANT: John Smith
Citizen of: United States of America
Passport Number: 171200851

General Directorate of Immigration
Department of Pensionado – Rentistas

The undersigned JOHN ALLEN [Name] SMITH [Last Name], retired, married once, of United States citizenship, resident of 1224 North Bay Road, Tampa, Florida, United States of America, with passport number 171200851 issued by the National Passport Agency in Washington, D.C. on the 17 of June of 2005 and which expires on the 17 of June of 2015 born to Fred Smith, citizen of the United States and Marlene Jones, citizen of the United States hereby respectfully request that I be granted the Temporary Immigration Status of **PENSIONADO RENTISTA** and further state as follows:

THAT I EXPRESSLY MANIFEST MY DESIRE TO OBTAIN RESIDENCY IN COSTA RICA AS A PENSIONADO RENTISTA.

ORIGEN OF PENSION: Social Security from the United States Government

AMOUNT OF PENSION: US\$ 1,050 per month.

TEMPORARY ADDRESS IN COSTA RICA: Pozos de Santa Ana, 200 west and 400 north of Deposito el Almacen.

DATE OF ENTRY TO COSTA RICA: August 1, 2010

PLACE OF ENTRY: Juan Santamaria Airpor

Supporting Documents

- Police Clearance Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
- Proof of Income Letter
- Certified Copy of Entire Passport
- Fingerprinting (done in Costa Rica)
- Power of Attorney to Legal Representative in Costa Rica
- Embassy Registration Letter
- Costa Rican Police Clearance
- Hoja de Filiacion (Background Info Form)

Signature
and Authentication



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

In support of my application I hereby attach the following documentation:

1. Police Clearance Certificate authenticated and with translated Spanish.
2. Birth Certificate authenticated and translated to Spanish
3. Certified photocopy of the entire passport and authentication.
4. Translation of the passport information page.
5. Income letter from Social Security and Translation.
6. Certificate of Non-Residency
7. Proof of Fingerprinting
8. Power of Attorney for Legal Representative in Costa Rica

SERVICE OF NOTICES

I hereby request that any notices regarding this application be provided to Lic. Roger Petersen by way of Fax number 228-7094.

Signed on this **7th day of August of 2010**

JOHN ALLEN SMITH

I the undersigned Consul for the Republic of Costa Rica in the city of Miami, Florida, United States of America hereby certify that the preceding signature is authentic and that the same was placed in my presence.

THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Documents Required for any Residency Application

To apply you will need to attach to your application all the supporting documents set forth in the previous slide.

All documents must be certified by the Secretary of State where issued in the case of U.S. Documents. Canadian documents can be legalized by the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Office. European documents by the Foreign Affairs Ministry

All documents to be used in Costa Rica must be LEGALIZED
by a Costa Rican Consulate

Embassy and Consular Information for Costa Rica



Ministry of Foreign Relations Web Site : www.rree.go.cr

Your documents (birth certificate, police certificate, marriage certificate, income letter) must be authenticated by the Costa Rican Consular office after you have legalized them in your country of origin.

Consulado de Costa Rica en Canadá

País: Canadá

Bandera:



Día Nacional: 15 de setiembre, Independencia (Costa Rica)

Dirección: 325 Dalhousie Street, Suite 407, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7G2 Canadá

Dirección Postal: No se encuentra disponible

Teléfonos: (001) 613-562-2855

Fax: (001) 613-562-2582

Consulado de Costa Rica en Estados Unidos de América

País: Estados Unidos de América

Bandera:



Día Nacional: 15 de septiembre, Independencia (Costa Rica)

Dirección: 2112-S Street, North West, Washington D.C. 20008

Dirección Postal: No se encuentra disponible

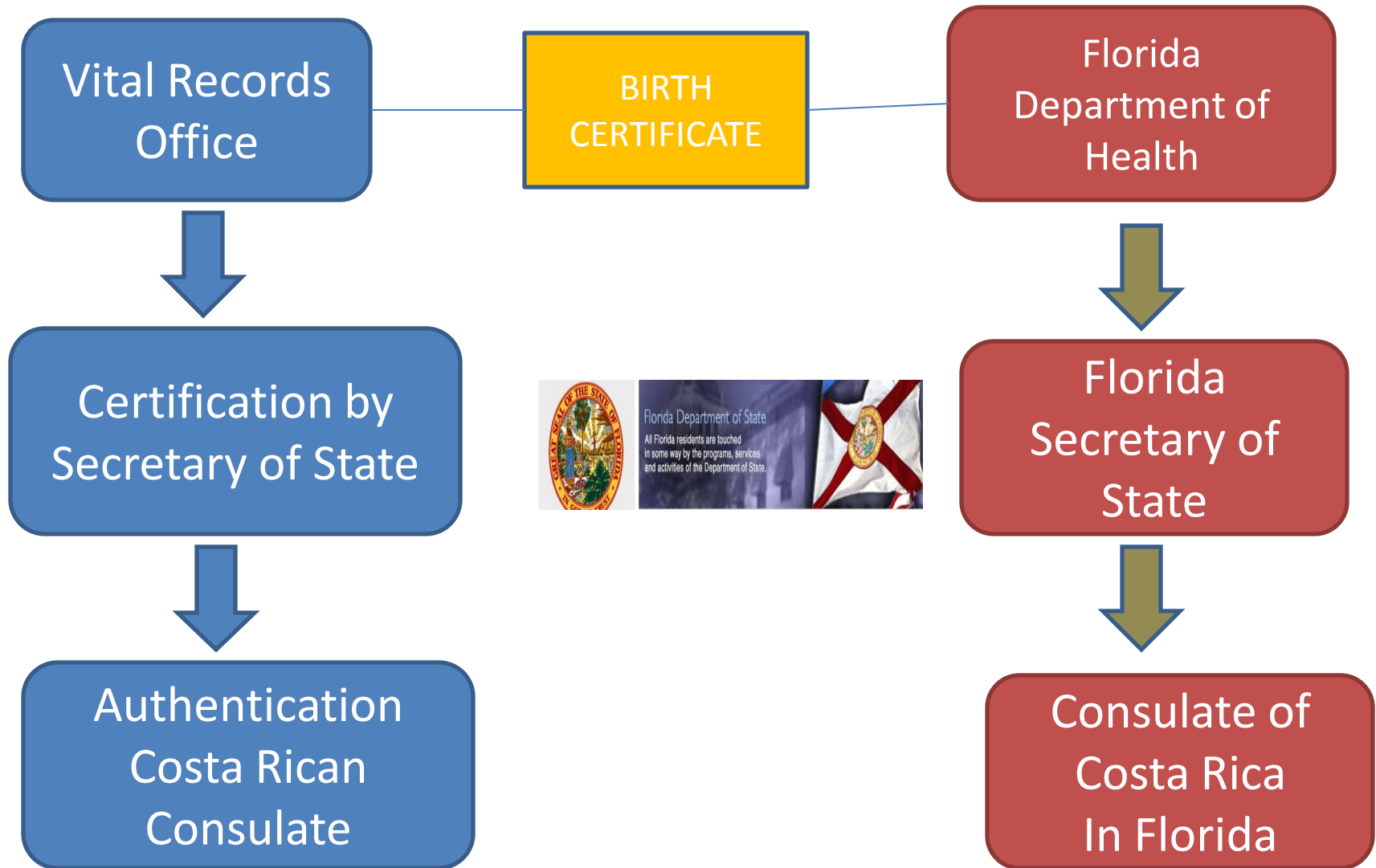
Teléfonos: 001 (202) 328-6628

Fax: 001 (202) 265-4795

Correo Electrónico: consulate@costarica-embassy.org

At the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Relations you will find the contact information for all Costa Rican Consulates in the world.

The Document Certification Process




Sample Legalization

Document Certified by Secretary of State

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICE
 STATE OF INDIANA

I, **Todd Rokita**, Secretary of State of Indiana, DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That, according to records on file in my office *Dawn M. Adams* was duly elected or appointed to the office of Special Deputy in and for the *Indiana State Department of Health* and that the term of said office included the date of *March 29, 2010* that to all his/her official acts as said officer, full faith and credit ought to be given in all Courts of Justice and elsewhere. In testimony whereof, I have here unto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana, at Indianapolis, this the *Ninth* day of *April*, 2010.



Todd Rokita
Todd Rokita
 Indiana Secretary of State

By: *Jerry M. Dove*
 Deputy

Effective May 1, 2003 all apostilles from the Indiana Secretary of State will have an electronically printed seal.
 TDOVE



Document Legalized by Costa Rican Consular Office




Consulado de Costa Rica en
 WA, DC
 Oficina No. 10C
 Arancel No. LFR
 USS 4.0
 06/03/10 18:42

El suscrito **JUAN SALAS ARAYA**
 Ministro Consejero y Cónsul General de Costa Rica
 en Washington, Distrito de Columbia, Estados Unidos de América

CERTIFICA:

Que la firma que aparece en el documento adjunto que dice: **TODD ROKITA**, es autentica por ser la que acostumbra usar en los documentos que autoriza, en calidad de Secretario de Estado del Estado de INDIANA. En fe de lo cual firmo y sello la presente CERTIFICACION DE NACIMIENTO, en Washington, D.C. a las dieciséis horas con treinta y cinco minutos del día tres de junio de 2010.

(El funcionario consular no asume responsabilidad alguna en cuanto al contenido del adjunto documento).

Juan Salas Araya
 Firma del funcionario consular

San Jose, 16 JUL 2010 de 2010.

La firma que antecede, del señor Juan Salas Araya Cónsul General de Costa Rica en Washington, Distrito de Columbia, Estados Unidos de América

ES AUTENTICA *Max Sandoval A.*
 Oficial de Autenticaciones

REPUBLICA DE COSTA RICA
 MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
 Y CULTO

SERVICIO CONSULAR

FORMULA DE AUTENTICACION
 (FORM. 10-SC)

TIMBRE CONSULAR
 Para cancelar con el sello

N. de orden 875
 N. de tarifa 25
 Derechos \$ 40.00

FOLIOS: 2

TIMBRE


Fingerprinting in Costa Rica



In Costa Rica you will need to have your Fingerprints taken at the Department of Public Safety.

You will be handed a receipt like the one on the right and that must be provided with your application

**ARCHIVO POLICIAL
HUELLAS DIGITALES**



Apellidos _____
Nombre _____ DE _____
N° Pasaporte _____ IALLES
Nacionalidad USA COSTA RICA
Nombre del Ofic. A.P. D. Cardona MINISTERIO DE SEGURIDAD PUBLICA
N° 0501-10 / Fecha: 14/04/2010

Firma del Jefe del Archivo Policial
Nulo sin el Sello de la Jefatura

Proof of Registration with Your Local Embassy

Costa Rica Department of Immigration requires that you register with your local Embassy in Costa Rica and provide proof of registration. Samples are set forth below:

Republic of Costa Rica)
 Province and City of San Jose)
 Embassy of the United States of America)

Before me, LEONARDO MONFRADINI MARQUES, Consular Associate of the United States of America at San Jose, Costa Rica, duly commissioned and qualified, personally appeared _____ (who being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

As per the Costa Rican government requirements for residency, I am registered at the U.S. Embassy, San Jose :

Name: _____

Place and Date of Birth: _____

I am a Citizen of the United States of America

U.S. Passport Number: _____

I currently reside in Costa Rica, at the Province of: _____

Home Phone Number: () _____

Mobile Phone Number: () _____



Email address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: () _____ Relationship: _____

And further deponent saith not,

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of April, 2010.

Leonardo Monfradini Marques
 CONSULAR ASSOCIATE
 US EMBASSY SAN JOSE

Registration of citizens travelling abroad Página 1 de 2

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada / Affaires étrangères et Commerce international Canada

Home > Registration of Canadians Abroad > Registration Summary

Registration Summary

Registration Summary | Manage Trips | Manage Family Members | Privacy | Your Account

We strongly suggest you enter family members if they will accompany you on your trip. Only associate family members to trip with same Trip/Residency Details as the main details vary, please add the members as separate registrations.

Registrant's Profile [Edit]

Name _____
 Passport number _____

Trip/Residency Details [Add]

Country	Address	From/to	Accompanying Family
Costa Rica	San Ramon, Costa Rica	01-Apr-2009 to -	-

Only associate family members to trip with same Trip/Residency Details as the main registrant vary, please add the members as separate registrations.

Travelling Family Members Details [Add]

Name	Relationship to Registrant

Emergency And Employer Contacts Details [Add]

Name	Relationship	Telephone	Email

19/10/2009

Proof of Filing

Once the application is filed and received by Immigration they will give you a receipt of filing which will contain your File Number (Expediente).

DIRECCION GENERAL DE MIGRACION Y EXTRANJERIA
PLATAFORMA DE SERVICIOS - AREA DE EXTRANJERIA

Fecha de impresión: 15/02/2010 10:10:34
Usuario: MAGUERO

Fecha y Hora de Solicitud: 15/02/2010 10:04 AM
Comprobante Requisitos Expediente N° 135 -
Solicitud N° 135 -

Tipo RESIDENCIA PERMANENTE VINCULO C.R.
C.M RESIDENTE PERMANENTE
C.L Libre Condición

Solicitante:

Requisitos	Requisitos
SOLICITUD JUSTIFICADA AUTENTICADA POR ABOGADO O FIRMARLA ANTE FUNCIONARIO DE PLATAFORMA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COMPROB REGISTRO HUELLAS MINISTERIO DE SEGURIDAD PUBLICA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CERTIFICACION NACIMIENTO LEGALIZADO EN EL CONSULADO DE SU PAIS Y CERTIFICADO EN EL MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CERTIFI. ANTECEDENTES PENALES DE PAIS DE ORIGEN O EN EL QUE HAYA RESIDIDO LEGALMENTE LEGAL EN EL CONSULADO DE C.R. Y CERTI. EN EL MINIST DE RELACIONES EXT. (SI ESTUVO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FOTOCOPIA CERTIFICADAS DE TODAS LAS PAGINAS DEL PASAPORTE VIGENTE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CUATRO FOTOGRAFIAS DE FRENTE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CERTIFICACION DEL VINCULO EMITIDA POR EL REGISTRO CIVIL DE COSTA RICA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOTOC CERTIF CEDULA CONYUGE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEPOSITO ₡125 (SOLICITUD) Y ₡2,50 (C / FOLIO) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FORMULARIO FILIACION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEPOSITO \$ 30 A LA CUENTA #242480-0 B.C.R. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TRADUCCIONES CORRESPONDIENTES POR TRADUCTOR OFICIAL O NOTARIO CONOCEDOR DEL IDIOMA <input type="checkbox"/>
FOTOCOPIAS CERTIFICADAS DEL CERTIFICADO DE NACIMIENTO <input type="checkbox"/>	FOTOCOPIAS CERTIFICADAS DE LOS ANTECEDENTES PENALES <input type="checkbox"/>
COMPROBANTE DE INSCRIPCON ANTE CONSULADO <input type="checkbox"/>	

Se advierte al interesado que para darle curso a su gestión, debe aportar los documentos que faltan según lo indicado en el comprobante que antecede para completar los requisitos de su solicitud dentro del plazo de 10 días hábiles, contados a partir del día siguiente de la fecha de presentación por primera vez de esta solicitud. Vencido el plazo concedido sin que haya cumplido lo prevenido, se declarará inadmisibles y se ordenará el archivo del respectivo expediente.

Lo anterior de conformidad, con el artículo 196 de la Ley General de Migración y Extranjería N. 8487, del doce de diciembre del 2005.

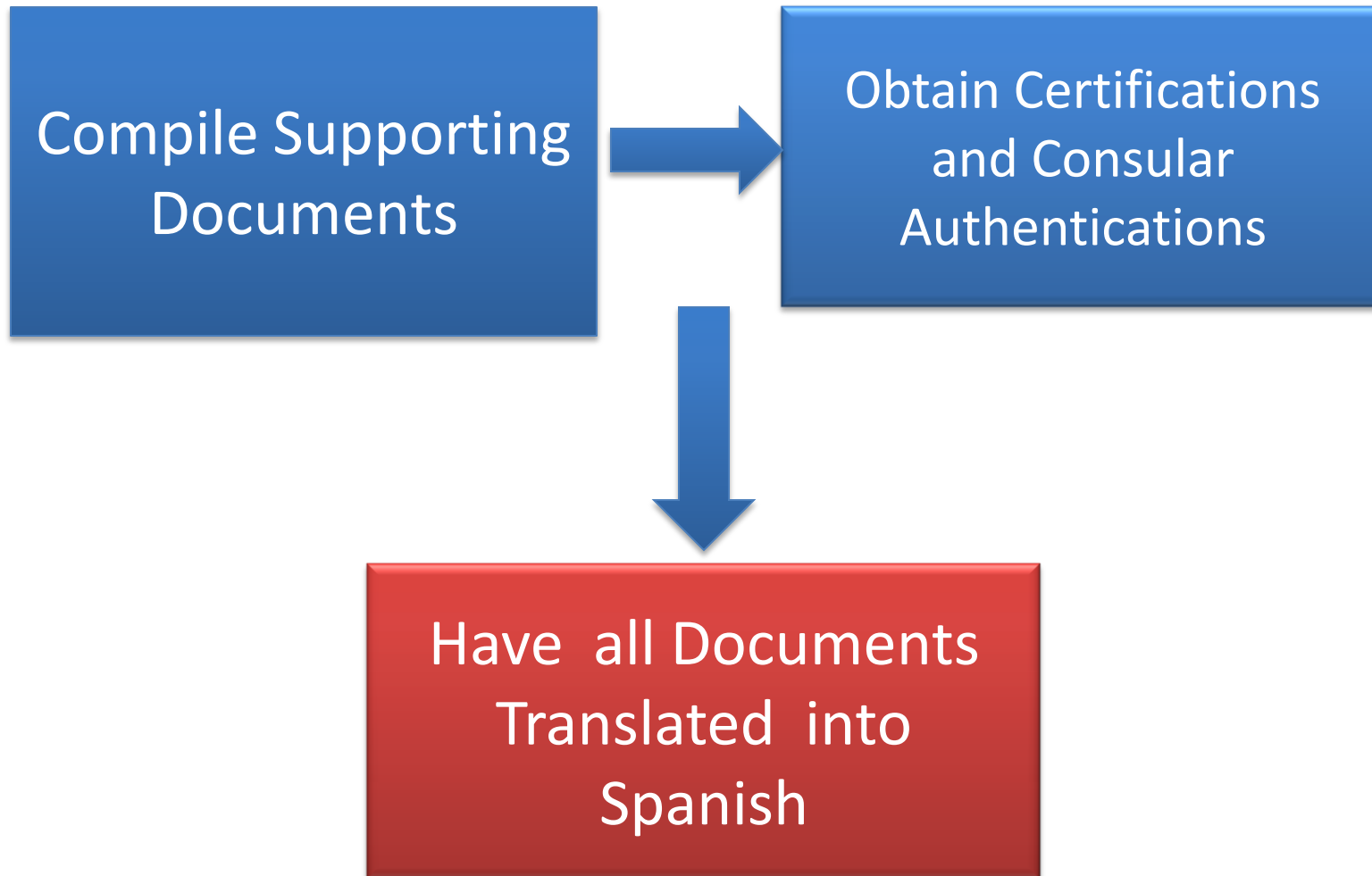
Notificado el:

Nombre completo _____
Firma _____ No. documento identidad _____
Nombre funcionario que abrió solicitud: _____
Firma _____

15 FEB 2010
GESTION EXTRANJERIA
PLATAFORMA DE SERVICIOS

How Long Does the Process Take ?

From the date your application is filed estimate 9-15 months



Have Local Attorney Draft
Application and Organize
Your File

Deliver Residency Application
To Immigration or Costa Rica
Consular Office Abroad

Wait for first Notice
From Immigration

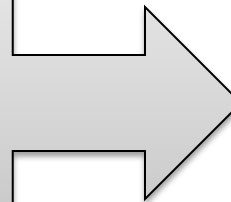
Local Attorney Review
Status of Application



Initial
Resolution
Issued

DEFECTED

APPROVED



Correct and Re-
Submit

Set Appointment at
Immigration For
Residency Card

Once Approved you will get your Residency Identification Card
(Cedula de Residencia)



Once approved you must register and pay into the Costa Rican Social Security System since it is a requirement for renewal of your immigration status (Article 79, 80, 83, 86 of Law 8746)



www.plawcr.com

This presentation was prepared by Lic. Roger A. Petersen

San Jose, Costa Rica

Tel: (506) 2288-2189 Ext. 101

Fax: (506) 2228-7094

E-mail: admin@plawcr.com

www.plawcr.com

For more legal immigration and general legal information
visit our legal information site www.costaricalaw.com