

COSTA RICA RESIDENCY APPLICATION

General Requirements	Detail
Application Letter to Immigration Authority and follow up. (In the case of a family group, an individual file is required per member. Parents should sign applications on behalf of minor children.)	We will prepare the formal letter addressed to the General Director of Immigration, as well as duly fill out the application form. Both documents will be duly authenticated by one of our Costa Rican Notary Publics/Attorneys. We will also prepare a special power of attorney as your immigration representative to submit the documents.
Fingerprints taken at the CR Ministry of Public Security	Applies to 12 years and older applicants. The applicant must do this personally in San Jose. We will guide you through the process.
Complete copy of applicant's passport certified by Notary Public	Passport cannot be expired. Tourist visa needs to be valid and current, not expired. All applicants, including minors, must comply with this requirement.
Registration at applicant's Consulate in Costa Rica.	The consular registration is waived if the country of citizenship does not have a consulate or embassy in Costa Rica. We will help you through this.
Birth Certificate	Must be Apostilled; or, if your country of citizenship is not signatory of the Apostille Convention, duly legalized and submitted to the corresponding Costa Rican consulate in the country of origin. Certification expires 6 months after issue date.
Marriage Certificate	If the applicant is married and wishes to include his or her spouse as a dependent. Must be Apostilled; or, if your country of citizenship is not signatory of the Apostille Convention, duly legalized and submitted to the corresponding Costa Rican consulate in the country of origin. Certification expires 6 months after issue date.
Police Records Certification from country of origin or last country of residence for more than 3 years. * (This applies to 12 years and older applicants)	Must be Apostilled; or, if your country of citizenship is not signatory of the Apostille Convention, duly legalized and submitted to the corresponding Costa Rican consulate in the country of citizenship. Certification expires 6 months after issue date.
8 passport size photos	Required for applicant, spouse, and any dependent children.

Foreign nationals seeking residency in CR, must also provide proof of financial stability in one of three ways:

- 1) As a retiree with pension.
- 2) As an investor.
- 3) As the holder of a fixed Annuity.

Pension Requirement	Detail
Certification that applicant receives a lifetime pension of at least US\$1,000 per month	<p>Must be Apostilled; or, if your home country is not signatory of the Apostille Convention, duly legalized and submitted to the corresponding Costa Rican consulate in the country of origin.</p> <p>Certification expires 6 months after issue date.</p> <p>This income must originate in a qualified source abroad: a retirement plan company, social security, or the government. The pension must belong only to the applicant personally. Other funds received by his family will not be considered. The beneficiary must prove that the required income (US\$1,000.00) was converted into Colones in one of the National Banking System banks before the end of each anniversary of the approval of the residency.</p>

Investment Requirement	Detail
Must demonstrate a real estate investment in Costa Rica with a value of at least US\$ 200,000.00 dollars	<p>In order to prove the value of the property, the applicant can present either:</p> <p>A) A Property Certification issued by the County-Municipality showing a value of at least US\$200,000.00 dollars.</p> <p>B) A CPA certification that confirms the investment of at least US\$200,000.00 dollars.</p>

Fixed Annuity Requirement	Detail
Certification that applicant receives a guaranteed annuity of \$2500 per month for at least 2 years.	<p>In order to provide a proof of income, the applicant can present either:</p> <p>A) A letter from the bank certifying its obligation of giving the applicant the monthly amount of US\$2,500.00 for a term of no less than two years, in a permanent, stable, and irrevocable manner. This letter must include the applicant's name and personal data: full name, marital status, passport number, domicile and occupation, and it is imperative for it to have exactly the above-mentioned wording.**</p> <p>B) A letter from one of the National Banking System banks, certifying the opening of an account with enough funds to release a Certified Deposit of US\$2,500 dollars per month.</p> <p>** The letter from the bank must be Apostilled; or, if your country of citizenship is not signatory of the Apostille Convention, duly legalized and submitted to the corresponding Costa Rican consulate in the country of origin.</p> <p>The beneficiary must prove that the required income (US\$2,500.00) was converted into Colones in one of the National Banking System banks before the end of each anniversary of the approval of the residency.</p>

Other Relevant Information

All documents not in Spanish must be duly translated to Spanish by an Official Translator approved by the Costa Rica Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The required pension, investment, or income of the main applicant also qualifies the applicant's wife or husband and their children younger than 25 years old, who are dependents of the main applicant.

Once the residency has been approved, applicants must register before the Costa Rican Social Security (CCSS).

The registration will require a meeting with an officer at a CCSS office, to determine the monthly fee to be paid. Once registration is completed, new residents must obtain a social security ID card (carne) at the local clinic called EBAIS. Registration requirements vary depending on the CCSS office. We will help you with the registration process.

GM Attorneys is a premium boutique Law Firm with offices in Flamingo Beach, Tamarindo and San Jose.

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WHAT IS AN "APOSTILLE"?

In March of 2011, Costa Rica joined The Hague Convention on the Apostille, (CONVENTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE LEGALIZATION REQUISITE FOR FOREIGN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS known as "CONVENTION OF THE APOSTILLE") through which public documents (e.g., a birth, marriage or death certificate, a judgment, an extract of a register or a notarial attestation, etc.) are recognized in any signatory country to the convention. Apostilles can only be issued for documents issued in a country that is a signatory of the Apostille Convention and that are to be used in another country that is also a signatory.

An Apostille only certifies the origin of the public document to which it relates; it certifies the authenticity of the signature or seal of the person or authority that signed or sealed the public document and the capacity in which this was done. **An Apostille does not certify the content of the public document to which it relates.**

Not all Apostilles look the same, but they must include the following: be identified as an Apostille; include the short version of the French title of the Convention (Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961) and include a box with the 10-numbered standard informational item. Additional information can be included by each country, and the Apostille needs to be affixed to the public document. To confirm if a country is or not part of the convention, visit <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=41>

Most countries that are signatories to the Convention do charge for the Apostille. For precise information on the prices and the requirements that individual countries charge and request, verify with the proper competent authorities of the country.

The USA is a signatory of the Convention. **This means that documents issued in the USA with an Apostille are recognized in Costa Rica, without the need to go to Costa Rican consulates and/or the Foreign Ministry in San Jose.**

Apostilles in the USA can be obtained before the Secretary of State from the state where the document was issued. For more information, please check the following link: <http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/cfsdd/cfsdd.shtml>

If the public document was issued or is to be used in a country where the Apostille Convention does not apply, you should contact the Embassy or a Consulate of the country where you intend to use the document in order to find out what your options are.

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