



## **Siam Legal International Details Thailand Privilege Approval Timeline and Common Causes of Delay**

*October 06, 2026*

Bangkok, Thailand - October 06, 2026 -

Siam Legal International, a Thailand-based law firm and authorized General Sales and Services Agent (GSSA) for the Thailand Privilege program, has released new guidance on how long the full Thailand Privilege application process realistically takes, addressing one of the questions raised most often by prospective members during consultations.

The guidance, presented in Siam Legal's Ask Rex episode on processing times, places the typical timeline at around two to three months from submission to the issuance of a Thailand Privilege membership ID. That period covers the background check, approval, payment of the membership fee, and issuance of the membership itself. Visa affixation, the final step that places the Privilege Entry Visa in the passport, follows separately and usually takes a further one to two weeks.

The background check accounts for the largest share of the process, typically four to six weeks. These checks are carried out by government authorities on their own schedule, and neither the applicant nor the agent can accelerate them. As a result, the overall timeline can differ from one applicant to the next even when applications are submitted at the same time.

Individual circumstances also play a role. Nationality, criminal record, and past Thai visa history can all affect how long an application takes to clear, and applicants whose records require closer review should plan around the longer end of the range.

Documentation errors are a frequent and avoidable source of delay. Discrepancies in paperwork can result in an application being returned or rejected, and in those cases additional documents or a full resubmission are required before processing can continue. Each correction adds time to a review that is already measured in weeks.

"The background check is the one stage of the process that nobody can shorten, so the real work is making sure nothing else adds to it," said Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal International. "Most delays seen in practice are not caused by the authorities but by paperwork that has to be sent back and corrected. When the documents are right from the first submission, applicants are generally looking at the standard two to three months rather than an open-ended wait."

Once the membership ID is issued, the place and method of visa affixation depend on the applicant's situation. Members flying into Thailand can have the visa affixed on arrival at the airport, while those already in the country can complete affixation at the immigration office at Chaeng Watthana in Bangkok. For members on a short trip, Siam Legal coordinates with Thailand Privilege member services to explore possible exceptions or to arrange affixation on the member's next arrival.

The timeline carries added weight under the current visa-exemption rules. With visa-exempt stays now limited to 30 days per entry, an applicant who submits while in Thailand on a visa exemption will typically see that stay expire well before the membership is issued. Planning the submission date around travel, and around the most practical affixation route, helps prevent a gap between the end of a permitted stay and the start of an approved membership.

The Thailand Privilege program, formerly known as the Thailand Elite Visa, is operated by Thailand Privilege Card Co., Ltd. and offers multi-year memberships that include a multiple-entry Privilege Entry Visa. As an authorized GSSA, Siam Legal assists applicants with eligibility review, document preparation, and appointment coordination at no additional cost, with the membership fee payable directly to Thailand Privilege Card Co., Ltd. only after approval.

Siam Legal International is a Thailand-based law firm with more than 22 years of experience advising individuals, families, and corporations on immigration, corporate and commercial law, property transactions,

and dispute resolution, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm advises clients on compliance and long-term planning as they navigate Thailand's evolving legal landscape.

###

For more information about Siam Legal International, contact the company here: Siam Legal International  
Rex Baay +662 254 8900 info@siam-legal.com 18th Floor, Unit 1806 Two Pacific Place, 142 Sukhumvit Rd, Khlong Toei, Bangkok 10110, Thailand

## **Siam Legal International**

*American-managed Thailand law firm with 22+ years' experience. Experts in corporate setup, BOI, FBL, family & divorce, property, litigation, immigration, notary, wills, contracts & due diligence across Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya & more.*

Website: <https://www.siam-legal.com/>

Email: [info@siam-legal.com](mailto:info@siam-legal.com)

Phone: +662 254 8900

