



Siam Legal International Clarifies Thailand Privilege Background Check Timelines as Screening Expands to Five Agencies

October 20, 2026

Bangkok, Thailand - October 20, 2026 -

Siam Legal International, an authorized General Sales and Services Agent (GSSA) for the Thailand Privilege program, has issued guidance for applicants waiting on the program's mandatory background check, the most frequent concern raised by clients whose applications are still pending approval.

The guidance follows an announcement by Thailand Privilege Card Co., Ltd. (TPC) on September 16, 2026, that member screening has been expanded from two agencies to a "4+1" mechanism. Alongside the Department of Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Immigration Bureau, checks now also involve INTERPOL, the Central Investigation Bureau and the Anti-Money Laundering Office. According to TPC, every applicant is screened from the first day of application, with checks repeated every 90 days, at annual visa renewals and during each five-year endorsement cycle.

For applicants, the check at the application stage remains the step most likely to cause anxiety. Thai authorities review each applicant's criminal history, bankruptcy records and any previous overstay history in Thailand before an application can move forward. Based on the firm's experience, the average processing

time is four to six weeks.

"When an application goes quiet for a few weeks, most clients assume something has gone wrong," said Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal International. "In the vast majority of cases, nothing has. If you are still inside that four-to-six-week window, the process is simply running its course."

Longer waits do occur. The firm has handled cases in which background checks took close to eight weeks, and Baay acknowledged that clients in those situations were understandably concerned. Certain factors can prompt additional review, including a history of holding an Education (ED) visa in Thailand, particularly where that history was not disclosed in the application.

"The single most useful thing an applicant can do is provide complete and accurate information from the start," Baay said. "An omission that seems minor on a form can add weeks of review later. Even so, most of the delays we have seen turned out to be ordinary processing delays, not a problem with the application itself."

Siam Legal is also clear about what it cannot do. Because the immigration and background check process is handled directly by Thai authorities, no agent, including an authorized GSSA, can fast-track it. The firm also avoids speculating about the cause of a delay unless the authorities provide a specific reason.

"Clients sometimes expect us to have a shortcut, and we would rather be honest that one does not exist," Baay said. "What we can do is stay on top of the file. When an application runs longer than expected, our team follows up actively with Thailand Privilege and passes on updates as soon as they are available."

That support extends to travel planning. Many applicants have flights booked or relocation dates set before approval arrives. Siam Legal's team helps clients assess whether the expected approval is likely to align with their travel dates. Where it may not, the team discusses alternative options so clients can plan their next steps with confidence.

The topic is the focus of the latest episode of Ask Rex, Siam Legal's video series answering the questions its team hears most often from clients. In the episode, Baay is joined by one of the firm's Immigration Consultants, Noe, who walks through real case scenarios involving Thailand Privilege background check processing times.

Siam Legal assists applicants with the Thailand Privilege program, formerly known as the Thailand Elite Visa, at no additional cost beyond the official membership fee, which is fixed by Thailand Privilege Card Co., Ltd. Applicants with questions about a pending background check or the application process can book a free

consultation with the firm's team.

Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm with more than 20 years of experience serving Thai and foreign clients, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Pattaya. Its practice areas include immigration, corporate and commercial law, property and real estate, family law and litigation. The firm is an award-winning General Sales and Services Agent officially authorized by Thailand Privilege Card Co., Ltd., providing end-to-end support from eligibility assessment through background check coordination and visa affixation.

###

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

Phone: +662 254 8900

