Siam Legal International Releases Thailand Privilege Eligibility Guide Ahead of Winter

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Bangkok, Thailand - November 17, 2026 -
Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting Thai and foreign clients, has released a new video from London setting out who is eligible for the Thailand Privilege Visa, often described as Thailand's Golden Visa. The guidance comes as residents of the United Kingdom, which consistently ranks among the top applicant countries for the program every year, and other countries with harsh winters begin looking toward long-term stays in Thailand.

Presented by Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal International, the video addresses the eligibility questions most often raised by prospective members, including those applying from the United Kingdom.

Thailand Privilege offers long-term membership options ranging from 5 to 20 years, together with concierge-style support designed to make settling in easier. The program, formerly known as the Thailand Elite Visa, is open to passport holders from almost every country in the world, with North Korea being the only excluded nationality.

Nationality is only the starting point, and several requirements common to other long-stay options do not apply. Thailand Privilege has no age requirement and no minimum income, and applicants do not need to show employment or a degree.

As a result, the program suits a wide range of applicants at different stages of life. Retirees, business owners, and those simply looking to spend the northern winter in a warmer climate are all considered on the same basis, without income or employment thresholds.

What the program does assess is the applicant's record. Every applicant undergoes a background check by the Thai authorities, which usually takes four to six weeks and covers criminal convictions, bankruptcy, and immigration history in Thailand.

The check is thorough but not designed to penalize minor or unintentional issues. Offenses committed by accident rather than on purpose do not count against an applicant, and a single short overstay is usually not a barrier, while repeated or lengthy overstays can cause problems.

"Many people assume a long-term visa will require proof of income, a job, or a minimum age, so the eligibility rules for Thailand Privilege often come as a surprise," said Rex Baay. "In practice, the applicant's record is what matters most, and an honest review of past convictions, bankruptcy, or overstays before applying gives a clear picture of how the background check is likely to go."

The vetting process is designed to maintain the integrity, safety, and high standard of the Thailand Privilege membership community. It also protects applicants financially, because the membership fee is paid only once an application has been approved. Applicants therefore have certainty about their eligibility before committing any money to the program.

For those in the United Kingdom and elsewhere who have been considering a longer stay in Thailand, the coming months offer a natural moment to turn that idea into a plan. A full overview of the eligibility rules and the background check is available in Siam Legal's Thailand Privilege eligibility guide.

Founded more than 22 years ago, Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm serving Thai and foreign clients from offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm advises on immigration, property transactions, business and corporate matters, family law, and litigation, and is an official General Sales and Services Agent for the Thailand Privilege program.

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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.

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