



## **Siam Legal International Advises Foreign Nationals as Thailand Reviews Short-Term Entry Policies**

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Siam Legal International, a law firm in Thailand, is advising foreign nationals to reassess their stay plans in Thailand as authorities continue reviewing short-term entry policies and long-stay compliance measures.

Recent policy discussions indicate that Thailand may reduce visa-free stays for eligible travelers from 60 days back to 30 days. The proposal reflects growing concern over the use of short-term entry privileges by individuals who remain in Thailand for extended periods through repeated entries, extensions, or border runs.

The discussion follows broader regulatory developments, including renewed attention on the proposed 300-baht tourism fee for international arrivals and closer scrutiny of foreign nationals who rely on short-term permissions for long-term residence.

Siam Legal International notes that the policy direction does not suggest Thailand is closing itself off to foreign visitors. Instead, the country appears to be drawing a clearer distinction between genuine tourism and longer-term residence. Short stays remain an important part of Thailand's tourism economy, but individuals who intend to live, work remotely, retire, study, invest, or remain in the country for extended periods may

need to consider more appropriate legal pathways.

“For most tourists visiting Thailand for a holiday, a 30-day stay may still be sufficient,” said Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal International. “The greater impact is likely to be felt by foreign nationals who have been using repeated short-term entries as a substitute for a proper long-term arrangement. That approach is becoming less reliable and more closely examined.”

Siam Legal International explains that repeated entries can raise questions at the border, particularly when a traveler’s pattern suggests residence rather than tourism. Immigration officers may assess travel history, purpose of entry, accommodation plans, financial ability, and whether the visitor’s stated purpose aligns with the permission being used.

The firm adds that Thailand has expanded and promoted several structured options for foreign nationals seeking longer stays, including retirement, family-based, business, investment, education, remote work, and privilege-based arrangements. These options are designed to give qualified applicants a clearer legal basis for remaining in Thailand beyond ordinary tourist periods.

The proposed shift also highlights the importance of timing. Foreign nationals currently in Thailand or planning extended stays should review their options before relying on repeated exemptions or last-minute extensions. A properly planned application can reduce uncertainty, avoid unnecessary travel disruptions, and provide a more stable basis for long-term living in Thailand.

Siam Legal International advises travelers to avoid assuming that past entry patterns will continue to be accepted. Even if a foreign national was previously admitted multiple times under short-term arrangements, future entry may be assessed differently as policy priorities change.

The firm also notes that the proposed tourism fee, while relatively modest, forms part of a wider effort to modernize visitor management and support tourism infrastructure. When viewed alongside the possible reduction of visa-free stays and increased attention on border-run behavior, the broader message is that Thailand is moving toward more structured entry and stay management.

Foreign nationals who plan to remain in Thailand beyond ordinary tourism periods are encouraged to seek professional guidance before making travel or relocation decisions. Choosing the wrong category or relying on informal strategies can lead to delays, denial of entry, overstay penalties, or difficulty securing a more suitable long-term option later.

Siam Legal International is a Thailand-based law firm advising on legal, immigration, and regulatory matters for both foreign and Thai clients. The firm provides structured support across immigration planning, corporate services, family matters, property transactions, and long-term stay solutions, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya.

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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

The logo for Siam Legal International features the word "SIAM" in a large, red, serif font with a small red flame-like graphic above the letter "I". Below "SIAM" is a thin horizontal line, and underneath that line, the word "LEGAL" is written in a smaller, yellow, serif font.