



## **Siam Legal International Advises Foreign Nationals on Thailand's 90-Day Reporting Requirement as Long-Term Residency in Thailand Grows**

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Siam Legal International, a Bangkok-based full-service law firm with more than 20 years of operation, is advising foreign nationals residing in Thailand to familiarize themselves with the country's 90-day reporting requirement, as a growing number of long-term residents encounter compliance issues stemming from misunderstandings about how the obligation works and when it applies.

Foreign nationals residing in Thailand long-term are required to file a Notification of Residence report with the Immigration Bureau regardless of their Thailand visa type, and the obligation is more broadly applied than many residents initially assume.

The 90-day report is a notification requirement, not a visa condition. Its purpose is to confirm a foreign national's current address in Thailand with the Immigration Bureau. Critically, it operates independently from visa status. A foreign national on a tourist visa, a Destination Thailand Visa, or DTV, or a retirement visa is subject to the same reporting obligation as any other long-term resident, provided they have remained in Thailand continuously for 90 days. The primary exception is holders of the Long-Term Resident Visa, or LTR

Visa, who are required to report annually rather than every 90 days. For all others, the obligation runs regardless of whether a visa extension has been granted or is pending.

One of the most consistent sources of compliance errors, according to Siam Legal International, is how foreign nationals count their 90 days. The arrival date is counted as day one, not day zero. A foreign national who enters Thailand on March 18th reaches their 90-day reporting deadline on June 15th. Immigration provides a filing window of 15 days before that deadline through 7 days after it, meaning the acceptable filing period in this example runs from June 1st through June 22nd. Waiting until the final days of that window is a common and avoidable risk. Filing early within the window, as soon as it opens, eliminates the possibility of missing the deadline due to scheduling or documentation issues.

"A significant portion of the compliance issues we see are not the result of deliberate non-compliance," said Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal International. "They come from residents who started counting from the wrong day, or who were not aware that their clock reset after a border crossing. The 90-day report is not a difficult obligation to meet, but it requires accurate date tracking from the moment you arrive in Thailand, every time you arrive."

Two events reset the 90-day clock and are frequently overlooked by long-term residents. The first is any departure from and return to Thailand. Each re-entry starts a new 90-day count from the date of arrival. No notification is issued at the border, and nothing in the passport indicates when the next report is due. The second is a visa extension approval. When an extension is granted, immigration may issue a new 90-day receipt with an updated reporting date that replaces the previous one. Residents should verify the date on that receipt before leaving the immigration office, as discrepancies are more difficult to resolve after the fact.

The first 90-day report must be filed in person at the foreign national's local immigration office. Required documents include a valid passport, a completed TM47 notification form, a TM30 address notification form, and the previous 90-day receipt where applicable. There is no filing fee. Subsequent reports may be submitted online through the Immigration Bureau's portal, by mail, or in person.

The penalties for late or missed filing are specific. A foreign national who files after the deadline faces a fine of 2,000 baht. A foreign national encountered by authorities without a completed report faces a fine of 5,000 baht. The financial penalties, however, are not the primary concern for most long-term residents.

"The fine for a missed report is manageable," Baay noted. "What is not manageable is a pattern of non-compliance on your immigration record. Repeated failures to report correctly can complicate future visa renewals, extensions, and applications in ways that are difficult to reverse. A single missed deadline handled promptly is usually not a serious problem. Accumulated issues are a different matter, and immigration officers do review filing history."

Foreign nationals who require assistance with 90-day reporting compliance or who want to ensure their tracking and documentation are handled correctly can consult an immigration specialist in Thailand for guidance specific to their visa type and residency situation.

Siam Legal International is a Thailand-based law firm with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm provides legal and immigration services to foreign nationals, expatriates, investors, families, and businesses in Thailand. Its practice areas include immigration, corporate law, property, family law, litigation, criminal defense, notarial services, and related legal support.

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