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Introduction



Attorney
Kunio Hirama

Member of the Tokyo Bar Association
Graduated from the Faculty of Law,
Tokyo University

Living in a foreign country brings both hope
and uncertainty.

We receive many questions from Filipinos living
in Japan, such as:

- "I don't understand my visa."
- "I want to stay in Japan with my family,
but I'm worried."
- "I need help, but I don't know who to ask."

We listen carefully and support each person
with warmth and clear advice.

As legal professionals,
we'll help you find the best solution together.
Please don't hesitate to talk to us.
We're here for you.



Hirama Law Office

Access	2-minute walk from "Yotsuya Station" (Tokyo Metro Marunouchi Line, Tokyo Metro Namboku Line, JR Chuo Line, and JR Sobu Line)
Address	Musee Kojimachi 601, 6-4-9 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083, Japan
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What is a Visa Status? What Types Are There?

Main Requirements to Become a Permanent Resident

Frequently Asked Questions: What Happens in the Future?

Visa Type	Who It's For	Key Points
Permanent Resident	Lived long in Japan, meets criteria	No renewal, more freedom
Spouse of Japanese	Married to Japanese national	Need to change if divorced
Long-term Resident	Nikkei, parent of Japanese child, etc.	Can stay long, case by case
Dependent	Family of workers /students	Needs permit to work

Permanent Resident

- No expiration date / No renewal needed
- No restrictions on work
- High social trust (easier to get loans, etc.)
- Strict requirements to apply

Examples of requirements:

- Living in Japan for 10+ years
- Good behavior
- Stable income or savings
- Paying taxes properly
- Some visa types

(like "Dependent" or "Technical Intern") cannot apply

Long-Term Resident

- Has a fixed period of stay (e.g. 1 year, 3 years)
- Can work and live freely within the permitted scope
- Visa granted based on personal or family circumstances

Examples:

- Descendants of Japanese nationals (2nd or 3rd generation)
- Foreign parents raising a child with Japanese nationality
- Former spouses who need to remain in Japan after divorce or domestic violence

✓ 1. Living in Japan respectfully and continuously for a certain period

Case	Required Years (Approx.)
Spouse or child of a Japanese national	1 year of marriage + 1 year of residence (can be combined)
Long-term resident or work visa holders	10 years of residence (at least 5 years with stable work/life)
Nikkei (Japanese descendants, 3rd generation etc.)	May qualify with shorter stay (depends on case)

✓ 2. Stable Life in Japan

- You have a stable income (working or supported by family)
- You pay taxes and pension properly
- You are not relying on public assistance (like welfare)

✓ 3. Good behavior

- No criminal record (even traffic violations may be checked)
- Follows the rules and laws in daily life

✓ 4. You must have a mid- to long-term visa

- You cannot apply if you are on a short-term visa (such as for tourism)

📄 Application Process

1. Apply at the Immigration Bureau
2. Submit required documents (e.g. residence certificate, tax certificate, reason letter)
3. Screening takes about 6 months to 1 year
4. If approved, you will receive a "Permanent Resident" card

— Things You Should Know to Keep Living Together in Japan —

Q : How can I become a permanent resident?

A : In general, you need to live in Japan for over 10 years, follow the rules, and pay taxes. If you are married to a Japanese national, a shorter period may be allowed.

Q : I divorced my Japanese husband. Do I have to leave Japan?

A : Not right away. But after divorce, you need to change your visa status (e.g. to "Long-Term Resident"). Whether it's approved depends on your situation, like your life in Japan or if you have children. It's best to get advice early.

Q : Can I bring my family to Japan?

A : It depends on your visa and family relationship. If you have a visa like "Permanent Resident" or "Spouse of Japanese," you may bring your spouse or children. It's harder for parents or siblings, but possible in special cases. Ask a professional for advice.

Q : My child with a Japanese partner will become an adult soon. Do I have to leave Japan?

A : Not always. You may still stay in Japan depending on your visa (like "Long-Term Resident") and your life situation. But once your child becomes independent, it may affect your visa. It's best to talk to a specialist before that happens.