

Immigration of Alien Spouse

To bring a non-US citizen spouse into the United States to live requires two things: an approved petition for permanent residency and an immigrant visa. As long as the US citizen spouse has resided in Japan for the last 6 months, the US Embassy in Tokyo, Japan can process the permanent resident petition and immigrant visa.

If eligible to apply through the US Embassy, the first step is completing Form I-130 – Petition for Alien Relative and the related paperwork. A complete checklist of required documents is available on the US Embassy Japan website at <https://jp.usembassy.gov/visas/immigrant-visas/family-immigration/how-to-apply-step-2/iv-checklist/>.

The next step is to schedule an I-130 appointment at the US Embassy in Tokyo; appointments can be scheduled online. Hand-carry the I-130 petition and related paperwork to the appointment.

The US Embassy will review the documents and request any additional information that is needed. In some instances additional appointments are necessary. Once the US Embassy has the information it needs, the petition is processed.

After approval of the I-130, a final interview is scheduled for the immigrant visa. With the approved I-130 petition and immigrant visa the immigrant spouse is free to enter the United States. Upon entry to the United States, the immigrant spouse must get a Permanent Resident card issued by US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

If the marriage is less than two years old, a Conditional Permanent Resident Card is issued. This card is only good for two years and within 90 days of the card's expiration, a petition to remove the condition must be filed.

If the marriage is more than two years old, a Permanent Resident Card is issued that is generally good for 10 years.

While the process is simple, it can take several months to complete, so it is best to start the process early to avoid possible separation during a PCS.

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
LEGAL ASSISTANCE
U.S. Army Japan

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Immigration of Alien Spouse is distributed by the Camp Zama Legal Assistance Office, located in Building 101, Room CE209. Our office hours are 0830 to 1630 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday, our hours are 0830 to 1200. You may call for an appointment at DSN 263-4698/ commercial 046-407-4698.