



## FAQS: CESSATION OF INCOME AFFIDAVITS

### Is it true the Embassy will no longer complete income affidavits for U.S. citizens?

- Yes. Beginning January 1, 2019, the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and U.S. Consulate General in Chiang Mai will no longer provide the income affidavit form and will not notarize previous versions of the form.

### Why is the U.S. Embassy making this decision?

- The Royal Thai Government requires foreigners to meet a minimum income threshold to obtain nonimmigrant "O," "O-A," or "O-X" long-term stay visas. The self-sworn affidavits notarized at the Embassy and Consulate General do not meet the Thai requirement to certify the income of U.S. citizens. In addition, U.S. Citizens have often expressed concern at the expense and burden of travel necessary to obtain the income affidavit at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

### I want to renew my visa in 2019. How can I verify my income for the application?

- Thailand provides information about visa application and extension requirements on the [Royal Thai Embassy](#) in Washington, D.C., and the [Thai Immigration Bureau](#) websites including the [Bangkok Immigration office FAQ](#) page. These include minimum savings and income amounts and types of evidence required.
- As of October 26, 2018, U.S. citizens can verify they meet the income requirements for retiree visas directly with Royal Thai Immigration by providing a local bank statement indicating a minimum deposit of 800,000 Thai Baht or evidence of having an income of at least 65,000 Thai Baht per month. Applicants should refer to the above-referenced websites for specifics regarding the timing and conditions associated with these deposits. The requirements for extensions of these visas may vary, please visit the above-referenced websites or your local immigration office for more information.
- We will continue to notarize income affidavit forms through the end of 2018. Thai Immigration Bureau officials confirmed to us that they will support early visa renewals for U.S. citizens during the transition period.

### I receive U.S. Government benefits. Can the U.S. Embassy or Consulate General verify this income?

- We cannot verify or guarantee income, regardless of source. The U.S. Department of State has a specific process for verifying or certifying documents from other USG agencies and that process is completed in the United States. The U.S. Department of State's [Office of Authentications](#) is responsible for providing this service. More information regarding this service can be found at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/travel-legal-considerations/international-judicial-asst/authentications-and-apostilles/office-of-authentications.html>
- The U.S. Mission in Thailand has been working with the Social Security Administration (SSA) regarding deposits directly into Thai banks. The SSA recently notified us that it has approved Thailand to participate in the International Direct Deposit (IDD) program. This will make proof of income easier. IDD will be implemented beginning in the first quarter of 2019. More information about IDD can be found at: <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10137.pdf>. In addition, the Mission plans to reach out to the Department of Veterans' Affairs as well regarding direct deposit.

### What will happen to those who cannot demonstrate sufficient income?

- Sufficient finances are an eligibility requirement of the Royal Thai Government for the issuance of a long-stay retirement or family-based visa. Individuals who do not meet the income and financial thresholds do not qualify for these visas in Thailand. U.S. citizens should thoroughly understand the Royal Thai Government's visa requirements to ensure eligibility. We cannot intervene on U.S. citizens' behalf.

Updated: 11/28/2018



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### What are the U.S. Embassy and Consulate General doing to ease the transition?

- We recently met with the new Commissioner of Immigration and his staff to discuss the change, and both the Embassy and Consulate General will work closely with regional immigration offices during the transition period to address any concerns.

### May I use the blank affidavit in place of the income verification letter?

- The Royal Thai Government requires verification of income and the blank affidavit is not a verification of income. There is no service provided by the U.S. Embassy or Consulate General that satisfies this requirement.

### Will I have to open a bank account in a Thai bank?

- It is highly likely that any future income used to qualify for the nonimmigrant "O," "O-A," or "O-X" long-term stay visas will need to be deposited into a Thai bank account. The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and the Consulate General in Chiang Mai want to ensure that if you plan to renew your visa within the next six months that you have a valid income affidavit with which to do so. We encourage U.S. citizens currently using an income affidavit to get an updated affidavit no later than December 31, 2018.

Updated: 11/2/2018



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