



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. 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.
- 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. The income affidavits are currently valid for six months.

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. 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>

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.

What are the U.S. Embassy and Consulate 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.

