

What happens to your visa when divorced or bereaved with your spouse?

It is important to know about visa to stay living in Japan

Go to immigration authorities within 2 weeks and submit documents

When your residence status is a spouse of Japanese or a spouse with a permanent resident and when you are divorced or your spouse has died, what will happen to your resident status?

Let's see the situation since you have married. If condition permits, you can change a visa so that you can live in Japan in the future.

When you are divorced or your spouse has died, you should register divorce or bereavement to your nearest immigration authorities within two weeks. An entry paper is prepared at the immigration authorities.

The immigration control law has been changed in 2012. Persons with resident status of Japanese spouse or spouse of permanent resident in Japan should change to other resident status within 6 months when you are divorced or your spouse has died. Before the law is changed, you could stay in Japan until your visa expires even you are divorced or your spouse has died. But from now on, you should decide and conduct yourself within the six month.

When you are already a permanent resident, you don't have to change visa even if you are divorced or your spouse has died. You can live in Japan as before. This situation leaves as it is even when you get married again.

If you have a child of under age of Japanese citizenship (or permanent resident in Japan) between your spouse who has divorced or died and if you have the parental authority of the child and taking care of, you can change to a visa to the long term resident.

Before changing your resident status, you should prepare to earn money

If you don't have a child, you have been living with your spouse for three years after you have been married and you can earn money with yourself, maybe you can change your resident status to the long term resident. In this case, you need a certificate of employment at work and a pay statement for one or two months

If you had been married for less than three years, and you already have a new spouses who is Japanese or has a residential status of permanent resident, long term resident or working qualification, and if you want to get married with that person again, maybe you can change your residential status telling that you are going to get married with that person. However, in Japan, if you are female, you have to wait for 6 months after you are divorced and then you can get married again. In case of female from Philippine, you also have to wait for 6 months after you are divorced. In case of female from China, you can get married immediately after you are divorced if you submit to medical treatment.

In either cases, there is a certain amount of risk to change visa after you are divorced or your spouses has died. You'd better consult with an administrative scrivener or attorney at law before you decide it. It is important to prepare to work and earn money for living by yourself before changing the residential status.

Written by: Miho Fujibayashi, administrative scrivener

Strawberry picking garden in Fujimi City

Strawberry picking park in Chichibu City is famous in Saitama. However, it is bit far from here. So we have searched for good strawberry picking parks. There are following two strawberry picking parks in Fujimi city:

***Ichigo no Hatake Fujimi: 385 Nitta, Nanbata, Fujimi-shi, Tel. 080-5861-4115**

***Fujimi Strawberry: 1083, Katsuse, Fujimi-shi, Tel. 080-4125-0283**



In those two parks, you can both pick and buy strawberries until May. The park will be closed when all fully-ripened strawberries are picked. How about going to strawberry picking parks with your family on pleasing spring day? Call in advance to confirm that the park is opening.

Life consultant at the center of Fujimi City Hall is very convenient

Fujimino International Cultural Exchange Center (FICEC) has been opened life consultant corner in Fujimi City Hall for one year. It is convenient because it is easier to go than the place of headquarter of FICEC. We hope that many of foreigners in Japan utilize this corner when needed.

The life consultant opens every Wednesday from 9:00 to 12:00. Tel. 049-251-2711

Facebook of Fujimino International Cultural Exchange Center (FICEC) is available

You can check activities of FICEC with Facebook. It is only in Japanese version now, but if you understand a little of Japanese, please do check it, try to write any comments and click 'Like'. Various daily activities in FICEC are introduced so that you can understand what we are doing here.



At Japanese language class on March 6, Girls' day festival is held



At Japanese language class of FICEC, we enjoy various season's festivals. Last December, we made soba noodle together which we eat in the end of the year in Japan.

Girls' day is March 3 but we celebrate on 6th when Japanese language class is held. Let's learn about the derivation of Girls' day and the festivals and have snacks together.

Please come with your friends. You can enjoy it for free. Hina dolls are also displayed which is good to take pictures together.

www.ficec.jp/living/

●Living guide is available in six languages.