

Good news: Changing visa from Dependent to Long Term Resident

Notification of “When permission to change Status of Residence is applied from a person who stays in Japan, from Dependent visa to Long Term Residence visa” is issued from Ministry of Justice to Immigration Bureau



I couldn't work more than 28 hours a week with Dependent visa

In Japan, there are about 126,000 foreigners who have Dependent visa. Dependent visa is permitted to a spouse and children, supported by a person staying in Japan with Working visa or Student visa, who is living together in Japan.

There are 11 kinds in Dependent visa, ranging from 5 years to 3 months of period of stay.

However, as period of stay who stays in Japan with Dependent visa is the same as that of the spouse, period of stay of person with Dependent visa finishes when period of stay of the spouse finishes, accordingly.

Some persons who stay in Japan with Dependent visa, live in Japan since they were small, finish compulsory education and graduate high school, are recognized that they are fully rooted in Japanese society. After they graduate high school and try to get a job or make money to advance on to higher education, they can only work within the limit of the status of residence of Dependent visa (within 28 hours per week). Even if they have capacity to work such as Specialist in Humanities/International Services they are not allowed to work due to condition of academic background and employment history and as a result chance to get such job is limited, which may become a hard case for them.

Therefore, when you stay in Japan with Dependent visa, finished most of compulsory education in Japan, graduated high school in Japan, and applied permission to change Status of Residence to Long Term Residence, you may be considered to be fully rooted in Japanese society and permitted to change to Long Term Residence. The permission is judged personally and not in family unit, so the permission may be differed among brothers and sisters or between parent and children.

It may become difficult to change the visa when you are 20 years old or more. If you want to stay in Japan and work here, how about considering to change your visa?

Written by ISHII Nanae, Chief Director,

Period of Prohibition of Remarriage is shortened from 6 months (180 days) to 100 days



In Article 733, paragraph 1 of Civil Law Act, which decides about citizens, it says “Women cannot remarry until 6 months have passed after divorce”. This is because if a woman who remarried after divorce is pregnant, the father of the child who is going to give birth is not known.

It is determined that “A child born within 300 days after divorce is the child of the former husband and a child born 200 days after marriage is the child of the current husband”. Therefore, period of prohibition of remarriage is decided to be 6 months (180 days), as pregnant is understood by an appearance.

As a woman doubts about this problem, she filed a lawsuit that this law is “restriction more than required”. As a result, the Supreme Court judged that “as medical care and technology progressed, period of prohibition of remarriage more than 100 days become restriction for women”. Therefore the Minister of Justice noticed to local governments all over Japan to “receive registration of a marriage who has passed 100 days after divorce”. This may be a good news for women who wait for remarriage.

Application of My number card

My number card is issued in this January, as explained in the previous report. You may already have it in hand.

Some students in Japanese language class in FICEC ask about how to apply for My number card as they are very interested in it. My number has a face photo of the person and the IC chip is embedded, which can be used as public identification card, same as driver’s license, so it is very convenient to identify yourself. Contact FICEC if you don’t understand it.

Orientation for new students of elementary schools, junior high schools and special support schools

Orientation for new students and parents entering those schools in this spring has started.

Notification of school attendance is sent to the householder of a family who has a child entering elementary school, in the middle of January. Notification of school attendance for junior high school is delivered at elementary school.

Orientation is a good chance to know the school in Japan, for parents to enter elementary school and junior high school for the first time. Many letters will be issued from the school while your children go to school.

It is good to attend the orientation of your child’s school, to know the school life, and to prevent troubles in your child’s school life.

Event in Japanese language class in FICEC

Let’s enjoy Doll’s Festival

●Date: March 3 (Thursday) 11:00~

●Place: FICEC ●Participation is free

Japanese language class opens from 10:00 every Thursday. Usually we study Japanese conversation and we also plan to enjoy Japanese traditional events. Let’s enjoy together!

In last December, we made soba and in this January, we performed calligraphy.

<Making Soba>

<Calligraphy performance>

