



## Residency permit applications: FAQ

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## **Residency in the Seychelles: Frequently asked questions and their answers**

### **1. How do I apply for a residency permit?**

- 1.1) If you have purchased a property on Eden Island, you automatically qualify to apply to the Seychelles Government for a residency permit.
- 1.2) Application may be made for the following:
  - 1.2.1) Natural Persons: Up to six co-owners, their spouse(s) and issue;
  - 1.2.2) Legal entity: Up to six natural persons who have been nominated and declared by the legal entity as having a beneficial interest therein, together with their spouse and issue. As the application is open to only six members (and their respective families), the members will have to decide amongst themselves who will apply.

### **2. What fees are payable when I make my application for residency?**

- 2.1) Professional Fee: USD 1000.00;
- 2.2) Processing Fee: SCR 1000.00;
- 2.3) Permit Application Fee: SCR 150 000.00.
- 2.4) The Professional Fee is for compiling the application, uplifting your original documents from the MLUH Government Department (where they were submitted for your sanction application) and for uplifting your Deed of Transfer from the Land Registrar's office.
- 2.5) The Processing Fee is payable to the Immigration Division for processing the application.
- 2.6) Please note that your residency application will only be processed and submitted once the Professional Fee and the Processing Fee have been paid. Upon receipt of your instructions to apply for a residency permit, an invoice for these amounts will be sent to you.
- 2.7) When the application is approved, the Seychelles Government will provide you with their banking details to deposit the SCR 150,000 Permit Application Fee.
- 2.8) What currency must all fees be paid in?
  - 2.8.1) The Professional Fee of USD 1,000 must be paid in United States Dollars.
  - 2.8.2) The Processing Fee of SCR 1000.00 will be converted into United States Dollars and will be payable in United States Dollars.
  - 2.8.3) The permit application fee of SCR150,000 must be paid to the Seychelles Government (In Seychelles Rupees) upon approval of the permit. The account details into which this amount is payable, will be supplied to you by the Seychelles Government.

### **3. What documents am I required to submit in order to apply for residency?**

- 3.1) Application Form, signed in duplicate. (Complete one Application Form per family);
- 3.2) All the documents mentioned in the Application Form namely:
  - 3.2.1) Two full face, passport type, photos of all persons mentioned in the application;
  - 3.2.2) Certified copy of birth certificate of all persons mentioned in the application. A full birth certificate must be provided for issue, indicating the names of the parents;
  - 3.2.3) Certified copy of Marriage Certificate (if married);
  - 3.2.4) Documentary evidence of divorce, legal separation (if applicable);
  - 3.2.5) Two character references from persons of high standing, for the Main Applicant and their spouse;
  - 3.2.6) Police Clearance Certificate from all countries in which you have resided for more than 3 months, for the Main Applicant and their spouse;
  - 3.2.7) Indicate if you hold more than one nationality and include a certified copy of any certificate of citizenship you hold;
  - 3.2.8) Details of each passport if you hold more than one;
  - 3.2.9) Medical Certificate for all adult persons mentioned in the application, over the age of 18 (this is not a requirement for minor children), including an HIV test (which must be negative) a chest X-ray (to check for TB), and a confirmation by the doctor that the person does not suffer from any contagious diseases; and
  - 3.2.10) Proof of ownership (Copy of Transfer Deed)
  - 3.2.11) In the case of a legal entity, a declaration by that entity confirming that the Applicant has a beneficial interest in that entity.
- 3.3) Note: Where any of the documents listed above have been previously submitted with the sanction application, it will not be necessary to provide those documents again. These will be inserted from our records.



#### **4. What happens if I have already submitted documents for my sanction application, must I resend them for the residency application?**

- 4.1) It is not necessary to provide documents that have been previously submitted for your sanction application, as we will arrange to have these uplifted.

#### **5. Who must obtain a police clearance certificate and how can I obtain one?**

- 5.1) It is necessary to provide a police clearance certificate for every adult person that will be included on the application (I.e. the Main Applicant and the spouse). This must be obtained from the Applicant's current country of residence.
- 5.2) The Applicant may apply at any South African police station. The cost is approximately R59.00 per person. A receipt is issued and the police station will post the application to the Name Clear Centre, however, it is advisable for Purchasers to rather courier the information to the Name Clear Centre themselves. If we are copied with the receipts and passports or IDs, we can then follow up with the Name Clear Centre about three weeks after the application was made. The document is then collected and couriered to our offices in Cape Town.

#### **6. What happens if I am a citizen of numerous countries?**

- 6.1) It is necessary to provide details of each country for which the Applicant holds citizenship.

#### **7. Why are copies of my divorce documents needed?**

- 7.1) The reason for requesting the divorce documents is so that the Seychelles government has this information on file if at a future stage an ex-spouse makes an application on the back of an existing resident.

#### **8. Who in my family must apply for a medical certificate and is different information required for adults and children?**

- 8.1) The medical certificate is required for all members of the family, but the HIV and TB tests are only required for the adults.
- 8.2) The medical certificate for adults must include an HIV test (which must be negative), a chest X-ray (to check for TB), and a confirmation by the doctor that the person does not suffer from any contagious diseases. These tests are not necessary for the children.

#### **9. Do I need passport photos for all members of my family?**

- 9.1) Yes, passport photos must be provided for both adults and children.

#### **10. What happens if my partner and I live together but are not married?**

- 10.1) Unfortunately, common law marriages are not recognised for the purposes of the residence permit, and both partners must apply separately. However, both partners must hold a share, or be co-owners, in the Eden Island property in order to qualify for the Eden Island concessions.
- 10.2) It is at the discretion of the Immigration Division whether the partner of an owner will be granted a Residence Permit. It is also at the discretion of the Immigration Division whether they will qualify for the Eden Island concessions.
- 10.3) Where partners are not married, they may not be included in the Main Applicant's application.

#### **11. What happens if I cannot submit my application for residency on time?**

- 11.1) Please let us know if you are intending to make an application and we will request an extension of the time period on your behalf.

#### **12. How long will the approval of the residency application take?**

- 12.1) The time frame for approval depends on the capacity of the Department of Immigration. The Department of Immigration has requested that we compile and submit applications on behalf of Eden Island property owners in order to streamline this process.

#### **13. What is the process after the residency application has been approved by the Immigration Division?**

- 13.1) Once the Immigration Division has approved the application, they will send you their account details to pay the SCR 150 000 Rupee Permit Application Fee. This fee must be paid directly from your account to the Seychelles government.



**14. For how long is the residency permit valid and may I apply for citizenship in the Seychelles?**

- 14.1) The permit is valid for 5 years and it must be renewed thereafter and payment made again.
- 14.2) There is no option available at present to apply for citizenship, although this may be considered in the future.

**15. What are the advantages of acquiring a residency permit?**

- 15.1) The advantages of having a Permit is that you may use local currency for payment for goods (for example, hotels, ferry trips, etc).
- 15.2) You are also encouraged to invest in the Seychelles, and you may apply for a Gainful Occupation Permit if you wish to establish a business.
- 15.3) While there is currently no option to apply for citizenship, your period of residency may be considered if citizenship is allowed in the future.

**16. What concessions will be granted to me as an Eden Island Property owner?**

- 16.1) There have been concessions granted to Eden Island property owners. These are mainly financial concessions, for example, the current fee for the Permit is SCR 150 000 for both the Main Applicant and their spouse. This would ordinarily be SCR 150 000 for the Main Applicant and SCR 75 000 for their spouse.
- 16.2) There are ordinarily further financial restrictions to the effect that a bank guarantee must be provided in the amount of SR 20 000, and foreign exchange must have been brought into the Seychelles through the Central Bank of Seychelles equivalent to not less than SR 100 000. Again, this is not applicable under the concessions granted to Eden Island.

**17. If my application for residency is approved, what implications will this have on tax?**

- 17.1) You will only be taxed on income or remuneration generated within the Seychelles (for example, income tax, companies tax, etc). There will be no further taxes levied.

**18. What happens if I do not want to obtain a residency permit and merely wish to stay in the Seychelles?**

- 18.1) An individual is granted a permission to remain in the Seychelles for one month at the airport when they arrive. No visa is necessary, and there is no charge. However, the individual must be in possession of an "out-bound" ticket.
- 18.2) The individual may renew or extend this permission for a further two months, at no charge. In other words, permission is granted for three months at no charge.
- 18.3) If the individual wishes to stay for the subsequent four to six months, a fee will be payable. Once an individual has been in the Seychelles for a period of six months, they must leave the country (even for a day) before they will be granted permission to remain on the basis set out above.
- 18.4) Each visit is considered to be a separate event, and the cumulative number of days that an individual spends in the Seychelles per year is not considered. The individual may therefore continually exit the country for one day and return again.
- 18.5) Please note that the above permission to remain in the Seychelles is granted at the discretion of the Immigration Division.

**19. If I do not apply for residency now, may I apply for residency in the future?**

- 19.1) You may apply for a residency permit outside of the period granted to Eden Island property owners. However, you will not have the benefit of the concessions that have been granted by the Seychelles government to Eden Island property owners.