

EMIGRATION 101

Get Answers to Your Client's
Emigration Questions



UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE

Temporary Residency

The right to live in a particular country for a particular purpose for a limited time. In most cases, the person has no rights to remain in that country should their circumstance change or the purpose of their residency no longer be valid. It usually takes the form of a visa or temporary residency card.

Permanent Residency

The right to live in a particular country on an ongoing basis. In most cases, the person will have most of the same rights as a citizen, but will not be allowed to vote and may have limited or no access to social benefits. It usually takes the form of a permanent residency card.

Citizenship

The person will have the same rights as other citizens of that country, including the right to vote and access social benefits. The person will hold a passport for that particular country.

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	Understanding the requirements	Understanding the investment requirements
Citizenship-by-investment options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How long will it take before you will qualify for citizenship? 2. What is the maximum age of your children to qualify? 3. Can grandparents be included? 4. What do you need to do to maintain your citizenship - residency requirements, etc? 5. Can this citizenship be passed down to future generations? 6. Do you need to pass a language test? 7. Do you fully understand all the requirements? 8. Will you qualify for any social, educational or medical benefits? 9. What are the tax implications for South Africa and the other country? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much are you required to invest? 2. How long are you required to remain invested? 3. How do you recover your investment? 4. What is the track record of the project/fund that you plan to invest in? 5. Do you understand all the risks? 6. What safeguards have they go in place to protect investors? 7. What are all the costs? 8. What is required for the proof of funds application? 9. Will you be using funds already offshore? If not, is the required investment within your annual allowance? 10. Are there any tax implications associated with moving the funds offshore?
Residency-by-investment options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How long will it take before you will qualify for residency? 2. What is the maximum age of your children to qualify? 3. Can grandparents be included? 4. What do you need to do to maintain your residency? 5. Will you ever qualify for citizenship? 6. Are you allowed to work once you have residency? 7. Will you qualify for any social benefits? 8. What are the tax implications of becoming a resident? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much are you required to invest? 2. How long are you required to remain invested? 3. How do you recover your investment? 4. What is the track record of the project/fund that you plan to invest in? 5. Do you understand all the risks? 6. What safeguards have they go in place to protect investors? 7. What are all the costs? 8. What is required for the proof of funds application? 9. Will you be using funds already offshore? If not, is the required investment within your annual allowance? 10. Are there any tax implications associated with moving the funds offshore?
Start-up/Business/Entrepreneurial based options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What kind of businesses can you start or invest in? 2. Is there a formal incubation programme that you are required to invest in? 3. How experienced and qualified do you need to be? 4. Would your spouse be able to work? 5. Is there a clear path to a long-term immigration status? 6. What happens if the business fails? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much are you required to invest and in what? 2. Are you required to have a local business partner? 3. What would the tax implications be?



Key Immigration Categories
Is it a PLAN B or are you planning to relocate?

Understanding the requirements

Civic type immigration options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Are you married to a foreigner and what are the rules around spousal visas for that particular country? How long do you need to be married for? What are the rules around language? Would you be allowed to work? What would your rights be if your spouse passed away or you got divorced? Were/are your grandparents or parents citizens of another country and does this qualify you for a visa/ residency/citizenship in the country (Check carefully. All countries are different and the rules change often) Would you qualify for any social, education or medical benefits?
Job related immigration options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is your occupation or skill set? What qualification and experience do you have to support your application? Is your occupation or skill set on the scarce skills list for the country you would like to relocate? Is it likely to be a short/medium or long term employment opportunity? Would you qualify for any long-term immigration status through your job? Would your family be able to join you and would your spouse be allowed to work? Is the employment opportunity in a country that would be easy for your family to adjust to culturally, socially and religiously? Could you initially commute or work remotely before relocating your whole family? What would happen in the job did not work out? What are your rights as a foreign employee?

Thinking through the details

Job opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will you qualify for a work visa and what are there restrictions around that visa, in terms of where you live and whether you can change jobs? Is your spouse be allowed to work? What happens if the job doesn't work out or the contract ends? Have you really done your homework around the cost of living in the country you are going to, particularly around childcare, transport, education, medical and housing? Could you initially work remotely to get a feel for the job before you uproot your whole family? Will you qualify for any social, education or medical benefits? Is there a clear path to a long-term immigration status?
Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How does the country's schooling and university system work - age of admission, term structure, assessment format, etc? Are there any restrictions on the admission of foreign students to schools and universities? What are the costs of schooling and university? What is the language of instruction at the school/university? How will your children transition between the different schooling systems? Will you need to live in a particular area for your children to attend a particular school or university? Have you really done your homework about the cost of living in the country you are going to, particularly around childcare, transport, education, medical and housing? Does the school offer any extramural activities and at what cost?



Understanding the requirements

Future job opportunities for your children

1. Will your children be able to live and work in the country once they are adults?
2. Are they required to obtain their qualifications within that country to qualify?
3. What will their long-term immigration status be in the country and how will it impact their future as adults?

Housing consideration

1. Have you visited the city where you intend living before?
2. What are the housing options and the costs associated with each?
3. What services are available within the area you intend living?
4. Will you be able to afford to purchase a property in the area?
5. Are there restrictions on cars within the area?
6. What are the costs of utilities, especially heating?

Social considerations

1. How adaptable are you as a family? Have you discussed the possible impact on your marriage and family life?
2. What is your current support system and how will you adjust as a family unit without one?
3. Do you have any friends or family in the area?
4. What are the opportunities for making friends, especially if you are not formally employed?
5. Are there significant language, religious, or cultural differences between where you are going and South Africa? How are you preparing for these?
6. South Africa is a very liberal country. How do you think about how a different society may impact your family?
7. How easy can you access medical care and what will it cost?
8. What about relocating your pets?
9. Remember crime is a growing problem all around the world - it may be a different type of crime, but no country is crime free

Pathway to long-term immigration status

1. Would you qualify for permanent residency or citizenship?
2. What are the requirements? Language test?
3. What is the process and how long does it take?
4. Will your children be able to qualify in their own right?
5. Does the country allow dual citizenship?

Investment considerations

1. Do you need to rush into selling your property or would it make sense to rent it out?
2. What is the whole process of relocating going to cost?
3. Are you going to need to fund some or all of your expenses from your investments/capital?
4. Should you move all your investments offshore or rather look at the mix of your investments?
5. What are the rules around pension funds when you leave the country and what would the impact be over the long term?
6. Do you need to rush into making financial discussions related to your South African assets and investments?

Tax consideration

1. What are the tax implications of your financial decisions, within South Africa and the country that you are relocating to?
2. What are the tax implications from an estate planning point of view?

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