

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY

EXECUTIVE DECREE NO. 226

Of 20 July 2021

That amends Executive Decree No. 416 articles, of 13 June 2012, which creates within the Permanent Resident immigration category, the Permanent Resident sub-category, as foreign nationals of specific countries who maintain friendly, professional, economic relations and investment with the Republic of Panama and Executive Decree No. 197 of 7 May 2021.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
in use of his constitutional and legal powers,

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Organ promotes the implementation of an orderly migration and subject to a strict verification system in matters of national security, through the execution of its migration policies, in order that the National Migration Service, as the competent authority in the matter, can carry out the effective management of administration, supervision, control and application of the immigration regulations in force;

That article 14 of Decree Law No. 3 of 22 February 2008, regulated by Executive Decree No. 320 of 8 August 2008, modified by Executive Decree No. 26 of 2 March 2009, creates the National Migration Service, the Migration Career and dictates other provisions, stipulates that the Executive Organ will regulate the migration categories and subcategories, the procedure, the way and the conditions under which permits and visas will be issued, in accordance with the principles of national security, health, public order and protection of rights and freedoms; respectively, article 15 of the aforementioned Decree Law, establishes that it corresponds to the Executive to regulate the conditions and requirements that must be met to apply to each of these migratory categories and may create other migratory subcategories.

That by means of Executive Decree No. 416 of 13 June 2012, the subcategory of Permanent Resident was created within the immigration category of Permanent Resident, as foreigner nationals of specific countries who have friendly, professional, economic and social relations and investment in the Republic of Panama; the same that has been modified by the Executive Decree No. 548 of 14 May 2012, Executive Decree No. 806 of 9 October 2012, Executive Decree No. 1174 of 28 November 2013, Executive Decree No. 212 of 17 April 2014 and Executive Decree No. 197 of 7 May 2021;

That Executive Decree No. 197 of 2021, modified and added articles to Executive Decree No. 416 of 13 June 2012, by virtue of the fact that our country, having a service economy, considers it necessary to take advantage of globalization and the global structures to create new alternatives that contribute to the development and promotion of economic investment in the Republic of Panama.

That the Executive Organ deems it convenient to adjust the requirements and other provisions of the Permanent Resident sub-category, as foreign nationals of specific countries who maintain friendly, professional, economic relations and investment with the Republic of Panama, so that they are in accordance with the current needs of the country, to incorporate new investment modalities that promote the generation of economic income to

the country by applicants to this migratory category; in addition to incorporating another country that also maintains friendly, professional, economic relations and investment in the Republic of Panama, contributing to our economic development.

DECREE:

Article 1: Article 2 of Executive Decree No. 416 of 13 June 2012 is modified, which reads as follows:

Article 2: Foreigners who may opt for this type of Permanent Resident permit will only be nationals of: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Federal Republic of Germany, Argentine Republic, Confederation of Australia, Republic of Korea, Republic of Austria, Federative Republic of Brazil, Kingdom of Belgium, Canada, Kingdom of Spain, United States of America, Slovak Republic, French Republic, Republic of Finland, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, State of Japan, Kingdom of Norway, Czech Republic, Swiss Confederation, Republic of Singapore, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, Republic of Chile, Kingdom of Sweden, Republic of Poland, Hungary, Hellenic Republic (Greece), Portuguese Republic, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Estonia, Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Cyprus, Republic of Malta, Republic of Serbia, Montenegro, State of Israel, Kingdom of Denmark, Republic of South Africa, New Zealand, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Principality of Liechtenstein, Principality of Monaco, Principality of Andorra, Serene Republic of San Marino, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of Paraguay, United Mexican States and the Republic of Peru, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of Paraguay, United Mexican States and the Republic of Peru.

Article 2: Article 3 of Executive Decree No. 416 of 13 June 2012 is modified, which reads as follows:

Article 3: The National Immigration Service may grant a Provisional Residence permit for a period of two years to those persons who request the subcategory of Permanent Resident, as foreigners who are nationals of specific countries who maintain friendly, professional, economic relations and investment with the Republic of Panama, in order to carry out economic or professional activities, in accordance with the provisions of this Executive Decree. To do so, every applicant, in addition to complying with the requirements established in article 28 of Decree Law No. 3 of 22 February 2008, must provide the following:

1. Three passport-size photographs.
2. Documentation that demonstrates the purpose of requiring their residence according to the economic or professional activity to be carried out, except for the activities, or professionals reserved by law for nationals, which may be demonstrated for any of the following reasons:
 - a. For work reasons:
 - a.1. Letter of employment on letterhead, signed by the legal representative of the employer, certifying the position, salary and commitment to assume the repatriation expenses, as the case may be.
 - a.2. Certificate from the Public Registry of Panama of the employing company.
 - a.3. Operational Notice of the employing company. In the event that the company, employer, is not obliged to maintain an Operational Notice, the supporting document must be provided, as established in article 4, Law 5 of 2017.

For the approval of the Residence Permit, the applicant and their employer will be obliged to process before the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development the work permit that authorizes the applicant to work in the national territory.

- b. For reasons of investment in real estate: Panamanian Public Registry Certificate that proves the ownership of the real estate, in the personal capacity of the applicant, of a legal person in which the applicant is the natural person who is the final beneficiary of the shares, contributions or social quotas of the company; or, founder and final beneficiary of a private interest foundation; provided that the real estate has a minimum value of two hundred thousand balboas (B/. 200,000.00). The acquisition of the property may be financed through a local bank.
 - c. For reasons of a Fixed Term Deposit: Certification of a bank with a general license that operates in the national territory, stating the existence of the deposit, its holder, the value, the term and that it is free of liens, with a minimum validity of three years and for a value not less than two hundred thousand balboas (B/. 200,000.00). This investment may be made in a personal capacity by the applicant, by a legal person in which the applicant is the natural person who is the final beneficiary of the shares, contributions or social quotas of the company; or, founder and final beneficiary of a private interest foundation.
3. In the case of dependents, applicants must comply with the provisions contained in Executive Decree No. 320 of 2008 related to Dependents of Permanent Residents.

Article 3: Article 5 of Executive Decree No. 197 of 7 May 2021 is modified, which reads as follows:

Article 5: This Executive Decree will take effect on 7th August 2021.

Article 4: This Executive Decree modifies articles 2 and 3 of the Executive Decree No. 416 of 13 June 2012 and article 5 of the Executive Decree No. 197 of 7 May 2021.

LEGAL BASIS: Political Constitution of the Republic; Decree Law No. 3 of 22 February 2008; Executive Decree No. 320 of 8 August 2008, Executive Decree No. 416 of 13 June 2012 and Executive Decree No. 197 of 7 May 2021.

COMMUNICATE AND COMPLY.

LAURENTINO CORTIZO COHEN
President of the Republic

JUAN MANUEL PINO F.
Minister of Public Security