

## *Getting a Pensionado Visa in Panama*

**Before you leave** – Collect and prepare the following documents.

**1. Passport** – The expiration date in your passport must be *at least* 6 months after the date you apply. A year is better. In any case, renew it if it expires. You will need a valid passport for entering Panama or the United States. If you are in Panama at the time, you can renew it at the United States Consulate.

**2. Marriage license** – Original copy of your marriage license and birth certificates for any dependent children, also "authenticated" as in #1 above. "Original" means a certified copy as issued by the County Clerk or Registrar where the license or birth certificate is recorded. These must also be authenticated by a Panamanian Consulate and translated by a Panama licensed translator.

**3. Pension Income Statement** – You will need to establish that you are receiving a pension in the amount of \$500.00 (or more) for the primary applicant and \$100.00 (or more) each for spouse and any dependent children.

a. **Social Security Recipients** - A signed original letter from the Social Security Administration. We also recommend bank statements showing deposits to your account from Social Security.

b. **Private Pensions** – A letter from the company paying the pension affirming that the applicant is receiving the pension, a bank statement showing deposits of that pension, and a good standing certificate. The letter and certificate must be authenticated by a Panamanian Consulate and translated by a Panama licensed translator.

**4. Criminal Record** - You will need a notarized letter from your local law enforcement agency showing any criminal record for the last five years or stating that you have no criminal record. This document must be authenticated and stamped at a Panamanian Consulate.

**Authentication** – You can take the documents to the nearest Panamanian Consulate or mail them. (See the list of Consulates at the end) If by mail include a letter with your name, address, telephone number and email address along with a self addressed stamped envelope and a check in the amount of \$30.00 per page, payable to:

### **Consulate General of Panama**

It is a good idea to fax the documents to the Consulate before mailing them to make sure they are able to authenticate the documents.

**Translations:** All English language documents must be translated into Spanish by a Panama licensed translator or the translation certified by the Panamanian Consulate. It is less expensive to have a Panama licensed translator do this. Most lawyers have licensed translators on staff.

**After you get to Panama**

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**See the Doctor** - You will need to see a doctor for a Health Certificate and possibly an HIV test.

**Photos** – You will need to have passport size photos made for your application. We suggest you have these made in Panama, where it is generally less expensive.

**Attorney** - Have the above listed documents ready to give to your attorney. If you have not already selected an attorney, we will be happy to recommend one. The standard fee for processing a *Pensionado(a)* visa is \$1500.00 for the primary applicant and \$500.00 for others, but many expats report paying about half that. We suggest you look on the Yahoo Panama Groups for recommendations by other expats.

### **Panamanian Consulates in the US**

#### **Consulate General of Panama**

444 Brickel Avenue Suite 729  
Miami, FL 33131  
Tel: (305) 371-7031  
Fax: (305) 371-2907

#### **Consulate General of Panama**

1324 World Trade Center No. 2  
Canal Street New Orleans LA 70130  
Tel: (504) 525-3458  
Fax: (504) 524-8960

#### **Consulate General of Panama**

24 Guenway Plaza, Suite 1307  
Houston, TX 77046  
Tel: (713) 622-4451  
Fax: (713) 622-4468

#### **Consulate General of Panama**

870 Market St. Suite 571  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Tel. (415) 391-4268  
Fax – (415) 391-4269

#### **Consulate General of Panama**

1212 Avenue of the Americas 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
Tel: (212)-840-2450  
Fax: (212)-840-2469

#### **Consulate General of Panama**

2862 McGill Terrace, NW  
Washington DC 20008  
Tel: (202) 483-1407  
Fax: (202)483-8416