

VISITOR VISAS TO AUSTRALIA

The grant of a visitor visa is a privilege not a right. The assessing officer has the discretion to grant or refuse the visa depending on assessment. There are four visa classes you could apply for depending the purpose of your visit and how long you intend to stay-

First, Tourist (Short stay), for the purpose of sightseeing, seeing relatives or friend, travelling, caring for a dependant who is in Australia on a student visa or other short term non- working activities

Second, Long stay visitor, for the same purpose as short stay but for more than three months. Aged parents visiting children may be given one year or parent caring for a young school child who is studying, may be given up to 11 months renewable each year for the length of the course.

Third, Medical treatment, short stay for pre-arranged medical treatment or consultation usually 3 months or long stay, for more than 3 months.

Fourth, Sponsored visitor, for those whose visit and return is guaranteed by an Australian citizen or permanent resident and are able to submit evidence of support.

VISA CONDITIONS

Your visitor visa may be subject to the following conditions.

- You may not study for more than 3 months,
- You may not work during your stay
- You may not apply for any other visa

If you breach a condition, your visa may be cancelled and you may be removed or deported from Australia

VISA APPLICATION GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Filing of proper DIMA application form (children travelling in a parent's passport are included)
2. Payment of fee or charge (A\$ 60.00)
3. Suggested documentation for purposes of assessment include:

To prove identity

- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Passport size photos

To prove financial capacity

- Bank accounts and credit card statements
- Income tax returns
- Certificate of Title to property
- Traveller cheques
- Return airline ticket
- If employed, certificate of employment and letter of leave of absence

- If you are in business, business name registration or Certificate of Corporate registration

To prove good health and character

- NBI clearance
- Private health or travel insurance is recommended
- Chest X ray, if necessary will be advised.
- Vaccination against polio, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, whooping cough, haemophilus influenzae hypo B (Hib) and hepatitis B are recommended for school age children attending school environment in Australia

For an Australian family or business sponsored visitor visa

- Letter of invitation
- Statutory Declaration of Support
- Cash Bond of A\$5,000-\$10,000.00 may be required.
- Condition of “No further stay” is mandatory

A VISA IS NOT A WORK PERMIT

As visa is a permission which entitles the holder to travel to, or enter and stay in Australia during the validity period.

It may or may not entitle the holder to work.

A permanent resident visa does not guarantee employment in Australia.

USE OF THE SERVICES OF A MIGRATION AGENTS

Under Australian law, anyone who offers advice or assistance to a person wishing to obtain a visa to enter or remain in Australia who represents to have knowledge of migration procedure, must be registered as migration agent. It is not necessary to use a migration agent to assist you with your visa application. If you engage the services of a migration agent, check that the agent is registered with the Migration Agents Registration Authority, www.themara.com.au.

IMELDA ARGEL

August 2001

This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. Our law firm Imelda Argel & Associates, Solicitors & Attorneys, will be conducting education seminars on “Migration of Professionals and Skilled Workers to Australia and Practical Tips in Obtaining a Temporary Working Visa to Australia” to be held this month in Manila, Vigan City and San Fernando, La Union. For enquiries on the seminar, contact Cita of Fajardo Law Office on (02) 810 9595 / 810 1490 or Kathleen Estepa on 09172035585 or visit our website on www.iargel.com.au.

The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising Filipino lawyer and a registered migration agent in Sydney, Australia. She is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the High Court of Australia, an Attorney at law in the Philippines and in the State of New York, USA. Her Registered Migration Agent no. is 9682957.