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Panama Residency

Preparation Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare for your application. Your residency category, issuing country and family circumstances determine which documents you need.

01 Confirm your residency category

- ☐ Confirm your eligibility, the position of each dependant, the evidence you need and the expected costs with your lawyer. Check entry rules for your passport separately.

02 Gather your documents

- ☐ Check passport validity for travel and filing, and confirm how your passport copy must be certified.
- ☐ Before ordering criminal record or civil-status documents, confirm the issuing jurisdiction and how recent each document must be. Gather any category-specific financial evidence.

03 Arrange authentication and translation

- ☐ Confirm whether each foreign document needs an apostille or consular legalisation. Arrange an authorised Spanish translation where required.

04 Plan filing and personal appointments

- ☐ Agree on the power of attorney, health certificate and filing sequence. Under the general rule, the health certificate must be issued within three months before filing.
- ☐ For Qualified Investor applications, filing before entry may be possible. Complete biometrics and registration before the immigration card is issued.

05 Check the steps after approval

- ☐ Verify your residence status and card details. If granted permanent residence, ask whether and when to apply for a foreign resident ID (cédula E).

Official sources: Decree Law 3/2008, Art. 28 · Executive Decree 320/2008, Art. 247
Executive Decree 17/2026, Art. 16