

Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2023

Colombia

New citizenship regulations

Executive summary

In late September 2023, the Colombian government introduced new requirements for obtaining Colombian citizenship by naturalization.

Key developments

In general, effective 25 September 2023, foreign nationals must hold lawful resident status (i.e., a valid Colombian residence visa) for at least five years before being eligible to apply for citizenship by naturalization. Previously, certain individuals were eligible to apply for citizenship after one year of residence (i.e., nationals of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean) or two years (i.e., certain Spanish citizens). As previously, certain individuals remain eligible to apply for citizenship after two years of lawful residence in the country, including those who: (1) are married to, or in a civil union with, a Colombian citizen; (2) have Colombian children.

The new rules also state that stateless persons may apply for citizenship after one year of lawful residence. Previously, the regulations did not include a provision for stateless persons.

Individuals who apply for Colombian citizenship must maintain their valid residence status throughout the application process in order to remain eligible to become Colombian citizens.

Impact on employers

Organizations that support employees with obtaining Colombian citizenship may inform impacted individuals of the change in requirements to manage expectations.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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