

## The law concerning foreign residents has been changed.

Wakayama City Citizens' Affairs Division  
Tel: 073-435-1027

### On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the law concerning foreign residents changed.

The Alien Registration Act was abolished, and Resident Records are now created for foreign residents, who will be now be subject to the Basic Resident Registration System in the same way it applies to Japanese people.

### Foreign residents for whom residence records will be created for are stipulated below:

1. **Medium to Long-term Residents:**  
(Target group for Residence Card issuance)  
Individuals who legally have an address in Japan for greater than three months and are not a tourist or other short term visitor
2. **Special Permanent Residents:**  
(Target group for Special Permanent Resident Certificate issuance)
3. **Persons Granted Permission for Temporary Refuge:**  
(Issued temporary refugee permit or landing permit for temporary refugees)  
Persons who are on a boat, etc. who might be refugees and who have obtained permission to disembark or persons who have applied for authorization as refugees and have obtained permission for a temporary stay.
4. **Persons who may continue to stay transitionally in Japan by birth, or persons who may continue to stay transitionally in Japan by a loss of Japanese nationality:**  
In the case of a birth or having lost Japanese nationality are allowed to stay in Japan up to 60 days without the need of other qualifications.

### On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 your proof of address changed from your Alien Registration Record to a Residence Record.

- Information such as one's name, \*nickname, birth date, gender, address, head of household/relationship with head of household, date one became a foreign resident, etc. is listed on the Residence Records of foreign residents. Also, information such as nationality, visa status, length of visa, date of expiration of visa, etc. will be recorded when necessary.  
For names that use Chinese characters, specifically simplified Chinese characters, or illegible characters, your name will be listed in the characters that are traditionally used in Japan based on the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Justice. The way your name was recorded prior to this change will not be listed on your Residence Record. The rules concerning how Chinese characters are recorded are dictated in notification no. 582 of the Ministry of Justice in 2011.
- You can use a copy of your Residence Record as proof of address, etc. for your address after July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. However, your history of previous addresses dates of change of address, changes in name, and other information prior to the change in the system will not be listed on the Residence Record.

### Applying for a copy of your Alien Registration Records after the abolition of the Alien Registration Act:

1. All foreign residents' Alien Registration Records have been collected by the Immigration Service Agency and will be disclosed to qualifying applicants. If you need to access to records of your previous addresses etc.

For inquiries, or to apply

Immigration Information Disclosure Section, Information System Management Office, General Affairs Division,  
Immigration Services Agency

Yotsuya Tower 13F, 1-6-1 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-0004

Tel. 03-5363-3005:

More information about applying for a copy of your Alien Registration Records after the abolition of the Alien Registration act <http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/disclosure/foreigner.html> (Japanese text only)

About applying for a copy of Alien Registration Records for a deceased foreign resident.

This procedure is not a direct order from the laws but simply as one part of the services the government provides.

For more information about obtaining records of deceased foreign residents visit:

[http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/disclosure/foreigner\\_death.html](http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/disclosure/foreigner_death.html) (Japanese text only)

## When you Move

### How to file the proper moving in and moving out or change of address procedures:

#### ○ How to file the proper moving in/moving out procedures or change of address:

Persons who have moved here should bring their Residence Card, Permanent Resident Card or Foreign Registration Card (which will still be valid for a period of time) to the City Hall Citizens' Affairs Division within 14 days of moving.

For persons who are moving from overseas, we will be confirming your immigration details, so please bring your passport with you. For those who are moving from another part of Japan, you will need to bring your move out notice from your previous address.

#### ○ If you move out of Wakayama City

Please make sure to file a move out report in advance and get a move out certificate before you go. You will need the move out certificate when you file your move in report at your new location. If you are moving out of the country you still need to file a move out report, even if you have a re-entry permit.

#### ○ For those who are not the head of household:

Your relationship with the head of household will be confirmed. If your relationship cannot be confirmed with by the records that the city hall has, you will need to provide proof of your relationship.

#### ○ About Alien Registration Certificates from the old Alien Registration Act:

Alien Registration Certificates will still be considered valid synonymously as a Residence Card or Special Permanent Resident Certificate for a period of time. Please check the chart below to see when you will need to have it replaced with a Residence Card or a Special Permanent Resident Certificate.

(Note) Foreign residents whose Residence Card has expired can also apply. Please do this procedure ahead of time.

Special Permanent Residents (Inquire at the City Hall.)	Mid-term Residents (Inquire at the Bureau of Immigration.)	
	Permanent Residents	Other Residents
Your Certificate of Alien Registration will be valid until the beginning of your next renewal period, which is your birthday. However, if the beginning of your period of renewal is between July 9th, 2012 and July 8th, 2015, than you need to apply by July 8th, 2015. *For those under 16 years of age at the time of the change of the laws, please apply at the city hall before your birthday.	For those 16 years of age and over, please go to the Regional Immigration Services Bureau by July 8th, 2015 and apply to have your card changed to a Residence Card. For those under 16 years of age, please go to the Regional Immigration Services Bureau and apply for a Residence Card by your 16th birthday or by July 8th, 2015, whichever one comes first.	For those 16 years and older it will be valid until the end of your period of stay. For those under 16 years of age please apply for your Residence Card by your 16th birthday or by July 8th 2015, whichever one comes first.

Also, if you change your name, birthday, gender, or nationality/region please make sure to bring the applicable documents and report it to the applicable office within 14 days of the change. Also if it is lost or stolen, please report so immediately.

When you apply for your Residence Card you will need: 1) Your current Certificate of Alien Registration, 2) 1 I.D. Photo, 4cmX3cm (16 Years and older), 3) Passport (for those who have one).

In principle, persons 16 years and older should apply for themselves. Please contact the appropriate office if you need to have a representative apply.

For those who are younger than 16 years, please have a family member that lives at the same address apply.

For more information:

For information about the Special Permanent Resident Certificate, contact the Citizens' Affairs Division of the city hall (Tel. 073-435-1027)

For more information about the residence card, please contact the Wakayama Branch Office of the Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau (Tel. 073-422-8778)

Examples from the Ministry of Justice website:



How names will appear on your Residence Cards / Special Permanent Resident Certificates:

Names will be listed on Residence Cards and Special Permanent Resident Certificates in the English letters as it appears on your passport (for those who have passports).

For countries that use Chinese characters, your name will be listed in Chinese characters if the correct notation has been able to be confirmed. (Chinese characters used for names will be based on the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Justice.)

Nicknames will not be listed.

■ For more information on the system, please refer to the website of the Immigration Services Agency or the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications:

‘To All Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan’

[http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/newimmiact\\_1\\_index.html](http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/newimmiact_1_index.html) (English text available)

‘The System for Permanent Residents is Being Reconsidered’

[http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/newimmiact\\_2\\_index.html](http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/newimmiact_2_index.html) (Japanese text only)

‘In regards to the Basic Resident Register System for foreign residents’

[http://www.soumu.go.jp/main\\_sosiki/jichi\\_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu/](http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jichi_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu/) (Japanese text only)

■ For questions about the new system for residence administration:

Foreign Resident General Information Centre: (Foreign language speakers available): 0570-013904 (Weekdays, 8:30 AM - 5:15 PM) For IP, PHS, and overseas calls: 03-5796-7112

\*Note: In this case ‘nickname’ does not refer to a casual or informally used nickname. In many cases in Japan, names of foreign residents cannot be used written in their original language and instead are written using Japanese characters (katakana, Japanese kanji, etc.). The residence record allows a space for this nickname, also known as an appellation, to be recorded to help prevent any confusion for residents who use these nicknames. Nicknames cannot be arbitrarily decided by the individual, but must be a name that has been officially used for an extended time or a katakana version of their actual name. In some cases, verification may be required in order to have a nickname recorded on a residence record. Please inquire for more information.