

Panama Introduces New Channels for Immigration

In March 2025, the Panamanian government adopted two important immigration measures aimed at offering regularization opportunities for foreigners in an irregular situation. These are the Humanitarian Security Protection Permit, established by Executive Decree No. 06 of March 11, 2025, and Resolution No. 6616 of March 12, 2025, which exempts those who apply for the first time to the Crisol de Razas program from paying fines.

The Humanitarian Security Protection Permit represents a significant step forward in national immigration policy, as it provides a temporary regularization pathway for two specific groups: foreign nationals who have continuously resided in the country for at least one year—with absences not exceeding 60 consecutive days—and asylum seekers whose applications have been denied by the National Office for the Care of Refugees (ONPAR). This permit grants temporary residency for two years and a work permit issued by the Ministry of Labor and Workforce Development. It may also be renewed for up to six years, after which the beneficiary may apply for permanent residency.

The application process will require thorough verification of all documents submitted to the National Immigration Service to ensure their authenticity and validity. Authorities may also request additional interviews or evaluations to confirm compliance with the requirements. The submission of falsified documents will result in administrative and criminal penalties, underscoring the institutional commitment to a rigorous and transparent procedure.

In parallel, Resolution No. 6616 provides for the full waiver of immigration fines for individuals who apply for the regularization process under the Crisol de Razas program for the first time. This measure aims



to eliminate one of the leading financial barriers that historically hindered access to regularization, especially for individuals with limited resources, thus promoting formal integration into the country.

These initiatives reflect an evolution in Panama's immigration approach toward more inclusive and sustainable solutions. They recognize the contribution of the migrant population to national development within a framework of legality, security, and respect for human rights.