

TRANSLATION

COAT OF ARMS
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
ELECTORAL COURT

Letter N° 139/DNRC
Panama, August 29, 2019

Mr. Ricardo G. Fernández D.
Superintendent of Banks of Panama

Dear Mr. Fernández:

We appreciate your cooperation in informing the regulated banks and financial entities of the Official Communiqué that we have enclosed and that we circulated last year, by means of which we clarify the procedure for the registration of births of Panamanians born abroad and the issuance of their personal identification document.

[We communicated the] above because we have received complaints from Panamanians that have this type of identification card, indicating that some banking entities have doubts about the validity of the personal identification document showing the nationality as they hold an ID card as Panamanians whose country of birth is other than Panama.

In this regard, we reiterate our appreciation and we look forward to clarifying any doubt you may have.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)
Sharon Sinclaire de Dumanoir
National Director of Civil Registry

(signed)
Gilberto Estrada de Icaza
National Director of ID Card Issuance

COAT OF ARMS
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
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OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE ELECTORAL COURT
NATIONAL DIRECTORATES OF CIVIL REGISTRY AND ID CARD ISSUANCE
ON THE REGISTRATION OF PANAMANIAN BORN ABROAD

The National Directorate of Civil Registry and the National Directorate of ID Card Issuance, as dependencies of the Electoral Court responsible for the registration and certification of births, marriages, deaths, naturalizations and other legal events and acts related to the civil status of people, as well as the processing and issuance of the personal identification card, respectively, deem it appropriate to clarify the procedure for the registration of Panamanians born abroad and the resulting issuance of their personal identification cards, to wit:

1. Traditionally, the births of Panamanians abroad were registered on the so-called “Special Volumes of Panamanians Born Abroad,” being registered with the acronym “PE” at the beginning of the registration, followed by the Volume number and the relevant sequential number, as well as the indication of the country where the birth occurred. For example: PE-15-200.
2. By means of Decree 11 dated 27 September 2000, issued by the Electoral Court, it was decided to discontinue the use of the “PE” acronym, to start registering the births of Panamanians that occurred abroad in the Volumes of the province in which their parents reside, if underage people, or the holders, in event of adults.
3. From that date until now, the people that hold the birth registration with the “PE” acronym have the opportunity to request the cancellation of this [registration] and registration of their birth on the books of the relevant province, as certified by the residence of the holder. This right is currently included in Article 29 of Decree 3 dated 11 February 2008 by means of which the Civil Registry Law (31 of 2006) is regulated, which states:

“The registration of Panamanians born abroad registered in the so-called “Special Volumes of Panamanians Born Abroad” may be re-registered in the volumes currently used in the indigenous areas or province of residence of the holder, of his/her parents, or in the volumes where the birth of the parent who is a Panamanian is registered. When the birthplaces of the parents are in different provinces, [the birth] may be registered in the volumes being used for either one.”

Therefore, it is possible that a person who previously held an ID Card, e.g. PE-15-200, now has an [ID Card] number 8-875-1950. In both cases the place of birth that will appear on the ID card will bear the name of the country where the person was born.

4. The change from the acronym “PE” to the number of the Volume of the province the person has as residence is a right that was granted to Panamanians that were registered on that

special volume, but is not an obligation. It is absolutely valid for there to be Panamanians born abroad, holding the “PE” acronym in their birth registrations, as well as Panamanians registered on Volumes 1 to 13 (numbers assigned to provinces and indigenous areas) whose ID cards bear a country other than ours as the place of birth.

It is also possible for a person to hold an ID card beginning with the number of one province and the birthplace is another [province or indigenous area]. This is possible by virtue of Article 47 of Law 31 of 2006, which provides that the births of children of fathers or mothers from and residing in a province other than that where the birth occurred, may be registered in the jurisdiction of residence of the parents, as long as the birth occurred in a hospital or with medical assistance and the residence of the parents is verified.

E.g. a person born in the Province of Panama holds ID Card number 7-226-345 that belongs to Los Santos, and the place of birth indicated on the ID Card will be “Panama, Los Santos” and not “Panama, Panama.”

5. On the other hand, there are Panamanian citizens born abroad that were registered in Volume 13, the number assigned to the recently created province of Panama Oeste (created by means of Law 119 dated 30 December 2013 enacted on 1 January 2014), as they have verified their residence or their parents’ residence (in the event of underage persons) in that province, meeting the provisions of Article 26 of Decree 3 dated 11 February 2008, referred to above, which provides:

“The birth abroad of a son or daughter of a Panamanian father or mother will be registered on the books being used in the indigenous area or province of residence of the holder or of the parents, or in the volumes of the indigenous area or province in which the birth of the Panamanian parent is registered, and in the event that both parents are Panamanians and from different indigenous areas or provinces, [the birth] will be registered in the indigenous area or province where one [of the parents] is registered, having previously been agreed on by them.” (Emphasis added).

In this regard, for the registration of Panamanians born abroad, the verified province of residence is taken into account when requesting the registration, without considering whether that province existed at the moment of birth. As a result, it is perfectly normal to find a Panamanian citizen born abroad in 1984 with the registration number 13, and therefore with his/her personal ID card beginning with the number 13.

Panama, November 27, 2018.

(signed)
Sharon Sinclair de Dumanoir
National Director of Civil Registry

(signed)
Gilberto Estrada de Icaza
National Director of ID Card Issuance