

**CLIENT ALERT #20/2020** 

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## NEW PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING RESIDENCY FOR BRITISH CITIZENS IN SPAIN DUE TO "BREXIT"

The new procedure for obtaining a residency card/document will be valid from July 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.

- 1. British citizen holders of a *temporary registration certificate* with <u>less than 5 years</u> of legal residency in Spain can apply for a residency document that will be valid for 5 years. The document will expressly mention "*Temporal*" (Temporary). Once the period of validity of such document has expired, it can be renewed by the holder for a further 10 years. The renewed document will expressly mention "*Permanente*" (Permanent).
  - The procedure is the same for holders of a *temporary residency card of a family member of an EU citizen* with <u>less than 5 years</u> of legal residency in Spain.
- 2. British citizen holders of a *temporary registration certificate*, with <u>more than 5 years</u> of legal residency in Spain and <u>without obtaining a permanent registration certificate</u>, can apply for a residency document that will be valid for 10 years. The document will expressly mention "*Permanente*". The residency permit can be renewed for a further 10 years.
  - The holder of the *temporary residency card of a family member of an EU citizen*, with <u>more than 5 years</u> of legal residency in Spain, can apply for a permanent residency document for 10 years. The applicant will have to prove that he/she complies with the mandatory requirements stated by the Foreign Office. The Foreign Office will check the documentation presented by the applicant and will issue a determination of residency within a maximum period of 3 months.
- 3. British citizen holders of a *permanent registration certificate* can apply for a residency document that will be valid for 10 years. The document will expressly mention "*Permanente*". The residency permit can be renewed for a further 10 years. The procedure is the same for holders of a *permanent residency card of a family member of an EU citizen*.
- 4. British citizens *without a certificate of registration* will have to apply for this, in person or through a representative, at the Foreign Office of his/her residency. In this case, it is a longer procedure, and the applicant will have to prove that he/she complies with the mandatory requirements stated by the Foreign Office. The Foreign Office will check the documentation presented by the applicant and will



issue a determination of residency within a maximum period of 3 months. If it is accepted, the applicant will have to obtain the residency document, the validity period of which will differ depending on:

- a. If the applicant has <u>less than 5 years</u> of legal residency in Spain, the residency document will be valid for 5 years. The residency permit can be renewed for a further 10 years once the 5 year period has elapsed.
- b. If the applicant has <u>more than 5 years</u> of legal residency in Spain, the residency document will be valid for 10 years. The residency permit can be renewed for a further 10 years.

The procedure is the same for family members of a British citizen without a residency card for family members of an EU citizen.



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