

Expat Counsel

FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN THAILAND: The 90-day notification thing II

Last time we talked about the notification foreigners who are not classified as immigrants must give the Thai immigration authorities every 90 days. This time we will begin the explanation of how, when and where you must make the notification.

The Immigration Act says you must give the notification "as soon as possible" upon the expiration of the 90-day period. In practice, this means you must give the notification within seven days before the 90-day period is up or within seven days after its expiration.

If you were unable to give the notification as a result of a medical condition or had some other really good reason, an immigration officer can review the documentation and has the discretion to extend the period to accommodate your excuse. There is no guarantee about this, though, so you should do everything you can to do it on a timely basis.

How do you file the notice if you will be

in Thailand more than 90 days? You must fill out Immigration form TM.47, which you can get from an immigration office or download from the Immigration website, www.imm.police.go.th.

The TM.47 form is in both Thai and English and you can fill it out in English. It's a simple form, asking for your nationality, passport number, arrival card number and your full address, including tambon, amphur and province.

One TM.47 form must be filled out for each member of your family who is not a Thai citizen. Parents can sign for small children.

Usually somebody at an immigration office will be glad to go over it with you if you have questions, and many immigration officers speak some English. It's your responsibility, not theirs, however, to understand what you're signing.

Where do you file form TM.47? You can file it by registered mail, but the date of registration must be at least seven days

before the 90-day period expires. Included in the package must be:

- the completed TM.47 form
- copies of all pages of your passport
- copies of both sides of the arrival/departure card (form TM.6) in your passport
- copy of the official receipt for filing the last TM.47, if you've filed any in the past (This should be stapled in your passport if you did the last notification in person.)
- a five baht stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The package should be sent to the following address if you live in Bangkok: Counter 3 (90 days registration) Immigration Bureau, 507 soi Suan Plu Sathon Tai road Thung Mahamek Sathon Bangkok 10120.

If you live outside of Bangkok, the TM.47 must be sent by registered mail with the above documents to the immigration office nearest you. If you live outside Bangkok

and send it to the address above in Bangkok it will be bounced back to you without being registered.

The stamped, self-addressed envelope will be mailed back to you containing the receipt of notification we'll tell you about in the next article.

Neither we nor individual immigration officers with whom we talked recommend filing the TM.47 by registered mail because of the possibility of lost documents. We will talk next time about methods of delivering the TM.47 in person and how you can get a residence permit to avoid the whole 90-day filing requirement. ■

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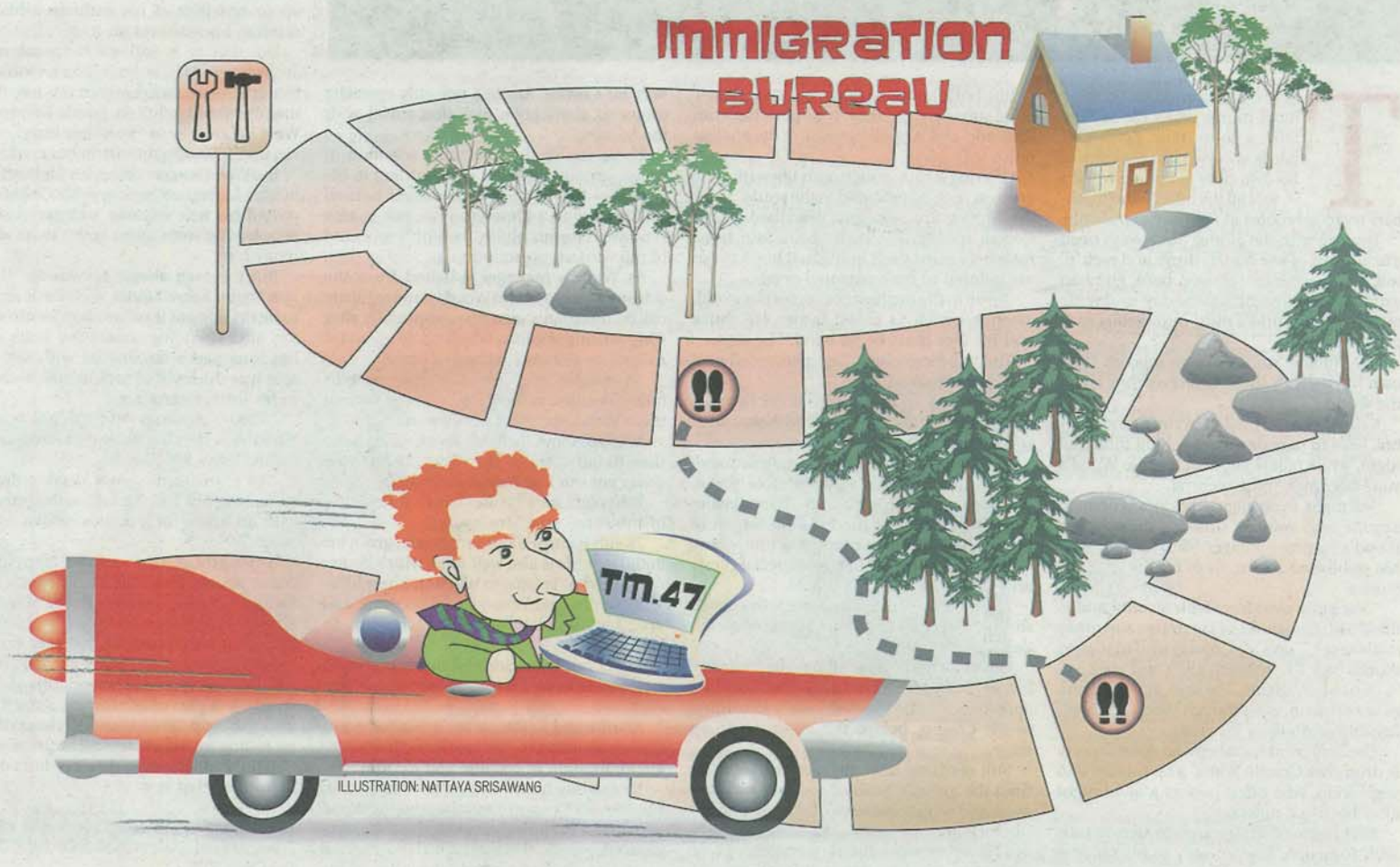


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