



# Important Colombian Visa Application Alert



## Colombian Immigration Updates!

Pay attention to these rules to implement a successful visa application plan. The new visa rules have made applications more difficult due to delays and many new document requirements.

**1) Visa Application in Process:** You do not get extra time in the country just because you have an application in process. Your legal days in the country continue to count even if a visa application is in process.

**2) Monitor Time:** You are responsible to monitor your remaining days in country. Google "date calculator" for help.

**3) Traveling During a Visa Application** may invalidate your visa application process (we have to pick a consulate nearest to your legal residence or for "most" people applications may be done in Colombia).

**4) 30 days Automatic Extention:** Current visa holders get a **30 days** grace period under the new 2022 visa resolution. Tourist stamp holders are not included in this automatic extention.

## **WARNING - Document Expirations, Application Fees, and Deadlines:**

**5) 30 days Application Limit:** Each visa application "**STUDY FEE**" is **54.92 USD**, which is valid for only 30 days. Unfortunately this time frame was put in place over 10 years ago, and most applications do not finish in this time period. So, there is a high probability that additional application fees will be charged as required by the government for applications. Most applicants will have to pay at least 2 application fees.

**6) All Documents Expire after 90 Days:** Documents may not pass 90 days from the issue date or they will be considered invalid and visa officials will ask for new documents. New apostilles on old documents do not validate old documents. Visa applicants are responsible for these expenses. Due to delays by the government reviewing applications some clients will have to get documents issued more than 1 time. These costs are high for foreign documents, such as apostilles, and translations. This is now a normal part of the process.

**7) Payment of Visa Application:** Most visa application are charged two times now, but there are cases when this is charged three times.

**8) Payment of the Approved Visa:** After the visa is approved, we have 10 days to make the payment, otherwise the visa will be canceled.

**9) Deadline for Cedula de Extranjeria:**

**A) In Colombia?** You have 15 working days after the printing date of the Colombian visa to apply.

**B) Outside of Colombia:** You will have 15 working days from the date of entry into Colombia to apply.

**10) Government Fees & Fines:** Government fees or fines from Migracion Colombia are starting at about 1,500,000 pesos for being over 1 day, and about 2 million for each additional month. It is easy to run out of time during your visa process. It can be extremely difficult to pay a fine and remain in Colombia to finish a visa application as the government only issues 30 day extensions when you pay a fine.

**11) Colombian Laws & Procedures FREQUENTLY Change** without Notice! Be prepared to obtain documents not planned for due to policy, law or procedural changes. Third party processing or government delays can cause applications or documents to expire.



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