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LIBANON: Frågor rörande civil status och uppehållstillstånd

Om denna promemoria

Informationen i denna PM har inhämtats i mars 2018 av Sveriges ambassad i Beirut via förtroendeadvokat verksam i Libanon (på basis av en rad frågeställningar riktade till Libanons *General Director of Personal Status*) och innehåller ingen analys utförd av Lifos. Språk: Engelska.

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maj 2018

Lifos – Center för landinformation och landanalys inom migrationsområdet

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Lebanese civil status issues

Family registration records

A) It is only the persons holding the Lebanese nationality who are actually inscribed in the official registers kept at the General Directorate of the Civil Status relevant of the Ministry of Interior. In order to get either an individual certificate or a family excerpt of one's civil status register, the following information is requested:

- a) First name, father's name and surname of the applicant;
- b) Religious community;
- c) Place of birth registration;
- d) Number of the civil status register.

The information provided in (c) and (d) are mandatory. Whenever an applicant provides a genuine certificate he is undoubtedly a Lebanese citizen.

B) Lebanese citizens do not need "permits of residence" which are delivered on a yearly basis to foreigners living or working in Lebanon. Nevertheless, it might happen that some members of the same family do not hold the Lebanese nationality such as:

- a) The foreign spouse (man or woman) of a Lebanese citizen;
- b) Or the children born from a mixed marriage concluded between a foreigner and a Lebanese woman, since the Lebanese Rules and Regulations do not entitle Lebanese women to transmit their nationality to their children! In above mentioned cases, the name of the foreign spouse will be indicated in the margin of the document. As for the children born from mixed marriages, they will be registered in civil status registers dedicated to foreigners exclusively.

Status of a foreign woman married to a Lebanese

a) When a foreign woman gets married to a Lebanese citizen, she has the following choice:

- Either to apply for the Lebanese nationality, which is granted one year following the registration date of the marriage in the civil status of the husband;

- Or to carry on residing in Lebanon as a foreign spouse of a Lebanese citizen, in which case she is entitled to get a residence permit valid for three years, free of charge.

It is useful to note that in either case, she has almost the same rights as a Lebanese married woman, particularly with respect to the succession rights. Nevertheless, if she decides to work, she will need to get a work permit and a relevant yearly paid residence permit.

b) In case of divorce:

- The foreign woman, who got the Lebanese nationality through her marriage to a Lebanese, will keep her Lebanese nationality together with all the rights granted to Lebanese nationals.
- As for the foreign woman who did not apply for the Lebanese nationality, she will have to abide by the rules and regulations of residence of the foreigners living in Lebanon.

c) Assuming that the divorced woman did not apply for the Lebanese nationality following her marriage to a Lebanese national, she is entitled to leave Lebanon and/or to enter again the country whenever she wants, on condition to apply for an entrance visa in the same way as other foreigners.

Children born in Sweden

a) A child born in Sweden to Lebanese parents has to be registered at the nearest Lebanese Consulate in Sweden. The birth certificate will be sent through the diplomatic pouch to the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will forward it to the General Directorate of the Civil Status; nevertheless, the registration process might take months in case the procedure is not followed up in Lebanon by a relative or by a legal representative (such as a lawyer).

b) It is not possible to register a child upon his arrival in Lebanon in case he is born abroad. The registration of the child birth at the relevant Lebanese diplomatic mission is compulsory. Anyway, the child does not need to be registered in the Lebanese civil status register before entering Lebanon in case he is also holding a foreign nationality.

c) The Swedish authorities might find a direct or indirect way to force the parents holding the Lebanese nationality and living in Sweden to register the birth of their child at the nearest diplomatic mission, but they are not entitled to interfere directly in the registration process of a child in his father's Lebanese civil status register. This right is exclusively limited to the father or to his legal representative.

d) The nationality of the mother (Syrian or Palestinian or any other foreign nationality) does not interfere in the registration process:
Once the father is Lebanese, the child is fully entitled to be registered in his father's civil status register and to get the Lebanese nationality ipso facto.

e) It should be noted that the Palestinian Refugees who left Palestine in 1948, are inscribed in civil status registers held by a specific department relevant to the Lebanese Ministry of Interior; special ID cards are delivered to each member of the registered families and all civil status acts (births, marriages, divorces, and deaths) should be properly reported and registered.

Accordingly, the procedure to be followed by Palestinians living in Sweden but registered in Lebanon at the Department in charge of the Palestinian Refugees Affairs, is similar to the procedure described above in par. (c): The birth should be reported to the nearest Lebanese diplomatic mission and forwarded by the latter to the related department of the Ministry of Interior.

Residence permits

a) Save the Palestinian registered at the relevant Department of the Palestinian Refugees Affairs, all foreigners have to apply for a residence permit whenever they intend to stay in Lebanon longer than three months.

b) Residence permits are delivered to foreigners:

- Who are working in Lebanon by virtue of work permits delivered by the Ministry of Labor. Usually the residence permit is issued for one year, and its cost ranges from L.L. 300.000 (for workers and housekeepers) to L.L. 1.800.000 for company managers);
- Who are married to Lebanese spouse or children of a Lebanese mother. In both cases, the residence card is free of charge and valid for three years.
- Who have done investments in Lebanon, such as purchasing real estates, or having bank accounts amounting to important sums that are updated from time to time by the General Directorate of the General Security.

c) The residence permit document is actually a magnetic card holding the photography of the applicant. Only tourism visas valid for a maximum of three months are stamped on passports at the frontiers desks of the General Directorate of the General Security.

d) It is clearly mentioned on the residence cards delivered to foreigners that presence outside Lebanon for more than six months will revoke the residency permit.



Om Lifos

Lifos är Migrationsverkets landinformationsenhet. Vi samlar in, analyserar och upprätthåller kunskap om länder och regioner från vilka människor söker sig till Sverige.

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