

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

November 14, 2011

Law No. 4429 concerning regulation of residence of aliens in irregular situations was enacted by the Paraguayan Congress on October 4, 2011. The new law, which takes effect December 4, 2011, allows certain foreigners resident in Paraguay to adjust their status if they are currently out of status. An unofficial translation of the law follows this text. U.S. citizens with questions concerning residence in Paraguay should contact a local immigration attorney or the Paraguayan Immigration Office (Oficina de Migraciones).

U.S. citizens in Paraguay are encouraged to take the time to tell the Embassy about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. Here's the link to [STEP](#).

U.S. Embassy Asuncion contact information:

Tel: 011-595 21-213-715,

After hours: 011-595 21-213-715 extension 2210

Fax: 595-21-228-603

E-mail: ParaguayConsular@state.gov

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the U.S. Embassy's website and the U.S. Department of State's [Bureau of Consular Affairs' website](#), which contains the current [Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#) as well as the [Worldwide Caution](#). The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review [A Safe Trip Abroad](#), which includes useful tips for those living and traveling abroad.

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

LAW No. 4429

REGULATION OF THE RESIDENCE OF ALIENS IN IRREGULAR SITUATION

ENACTED BY THE PARAGUAYAN CONGRESS

Article 1.- Aliens willing to reside permanently in the Republic of Paraguay and have been residing irregularly for one year or more, prior to the publication of the present Law, may apply for the regularization of their immigration status.

Article 2.- Aliens with irregular immigration status are those who:

a- upon legally entering the national territory, and whose period of authorized stay or residency has expired.

b- upon entering the national territory, but have not complied with domestic immigration regulations.

The procedure foreseen by the present Law shall imply the exemption of fines or other sanctions for the applicant.

Article 3.- Aliens eligible under the present Law are guaranteed all civil, social, cultural and economic rights embodied in the National Constitution, with the exception of the rights reserved exclusively for Paraguayans.

They shall have the right to work and perform any and all legal activities; petition the authorities; enter, remain in, transit and exit the country; form associations with legal purposes and profess their faith freely, pursuant to the laws of the Republic of Paraguay.

Likewise, alien's children born in the Republic of Paraguay shall have the right to an identity, the registration of their birth and the Paraguayan nationality, access to free elementary education, with regard to which public schools shall not prevent their enrollment based on their, or their parents', irregular circumstantial immigration status.

Article 4.- Aliens must apply for the regularization of their immigration status in person or through a duly authorized representative with the Immigration Office within one-hundred and eighty days of the enactment of the present Law. In case of reasons beyond control duly justified by the interested party, an extension of the foregoing term may be requested for the term of ninety days.

Article 5.- The following documents must be attached to the application:

a) Valid passport, ID, travel document or certificate issued by the applicant's competent consular agent with credentials in the Republic of Paraguay proving the applicant's identity and nationality.

b) Applicant's criminal background check in the Republic of Paraguay.

c) Any evidence of exact date of entry into the national territory.

d) Proof of marital status issued by the competent national or foreign authority, or an Affidavit signed by the applicant whereby he/she declares his/her marital status.

e) Children and adolescents require a certified copy of their birth certificate or the original birth certificate, or the equivalent document, from the country of origin stating the full names of the parents.

f) In the case of the preceding paragraph, children or adolescents accompanied by one of their parents or legal representative, a court order or other analogue document from the country of origin is required, whereby the child custody agreement and express authorization from the other parent or parents is granted for the change of residence.

Documents issued abroad must be legalized by the Paraguayan Consulate in the applicant's country of origin, or certified by the competent consular agent with credentials in the Republic of Paraguay.

Article 6.- As part of the foregoing procedure, the Immigration Office shall request the INTERPOL, or any other Organism of Internal Security, a report on the applicant's background check. Likewise, in the case of Article 5, section f), the Immigration Office may request the Judicial Branch, or other competent government entity, a report on the existence of judicial files on child abduction.

Article 7.- The applicant shall make a single payment for the amount of five national daily wages for the regularization of his/her residency, and for each family member, except for dependents under the age of fourteen or over sixty years of age.

Article 8.- Once the requirements provided in Article 5 are met, the applicant shall receive a certificate proving that the regularization of his/her immigration status is in process,

which will be valid until the Temporary Resident Card is issued for a term of two years. The Temporary Resident Card shall allow the applicant to obtain the identification Card with the National Police (Departamento de Identificaciones).

Article 9.- When the information provided or submitted by the applicant is false or has been forged, all immigration benefits obtained by the applicant shall be voided, regardless the penal charges against him/her, pursuant to the country's local regulations.

Article 10.- The Republic of Paraguay reserves itself the right to reasonably reject the residency or stay of an applicant whose presence is considered an inconvenient to its sovereign interests, based on the criminal background check supported by information provided by INTERPOL, the Judicial Branch or other government entities.

Article 11.- The applicant's whose immigration has been rejected shall have the right to appeal pursuant to the provisions of the Immigration Law.

Article 12.- Aliens eligible under the present Amnesty Law may apply for permanent residency within ninety days prior to the expiration of their Temporary Resident Permit, attaching the following documents:

- a) Valid passport, ID, travel document or certificate issued by the applicant's competent consular agent with credentials in the Republic of Paraguay proving the applicant's identity and nationality.
- b) Temporary Resident Card;
- c) Certificate of local domicile issued by the National Police or the Judicial Branch;
- d) Valid document proving the practice of a profession or legal employment, or the ownership of sufficient assets to support alien's family and himself/herself;
- e) Affidavit of having no tax liabilities or social security debts;
- f) Police and/or judicial report/record in the national territory;
- g) Affidavit of not having international criminal or judicial record;

h) Payment receipt of the fee provided in Article 7 of the present law, except for citizens of countries with exempted payment in virtue of the bilateral and/or reciprocity agreements;

Article 13.- The present law shall become effective sixty days after publication, term within which the Executive Branch shall issue the corresponding Regulatory Decree.

Article 14.- Referred to Executive Branch for further action.