Siam Legal Outlines New DTV Visa Thailand Requirements from August 31, 2026

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Bangkok, Thailand - August 31, 2026 -
Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm in Thailand, reports that Thailand's Department of Consular Affairs has amended the supporting document requirements for the Destination Thailand Visa (DTV), effective August 31, 2026. The department has revised one existing requirement and introduced one new requirement for applicants seeking the five-year visa category commonly used by remote workers and freelancers.

The revised requirement changes where an applicant may submit a DTV application. Applicants must now demonstrate permanent or legal residence, rather than mere physical presence, in the country of the embassy or consulate handling the application. The new requirement adds a mandatory police clearance certificate, issued by the applicant's country of nationality or permanent residence, to the DTV document checklist.

Previously, applicants needed only to show proof of current physical presence in the country where they submitted their application. An applicant living in a country where the local Thai mission had long processing times, or already present in Thailand, could travel to a neighboring country on a tourist visa and file there

instead. Under the updated policy, Thai embassies and consulates require proof of citizenship or legal residence in the country of application, and physical presence as a tourist is no longer sufficient grounds for submission.

On the police clearance requirement, exact conditions differ across Thai missions, though most require the certificate to have been issued within the last six months, some specify a particular issuing authority such as an FBI background check or an ACRO certificate, and any certificate not issued in English or Thai requires a certified translation.

Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager at Siam Legal International, said the residency change is likely to affect the greatest number of applicants. "Many applicants assumed they could apply for a DTV wherever a Thai mission was convenient, and that assumption no longer holds," said Baay. "Anyone planning to travel abroad specifically to submit a DTV application should confirm jurisdictional eligibility before booking travel or paying consular fees, since a mismatch can result in an immediate rejection. Applicants should also factor in processing time when requesting their police clearance certificate, as some issuing authorities can take considerably longer than others to complete a background check."

The updated requirements apply to all DTV applications submitted from August 31, 2026 onward. Applications that were submitted and paid for before that date continue to be processed under the previous requirements, according to the department's guidance.

The Destination Thailand Visa was launched on July 15, 2024, as a five-year, multiple-entry visa aimed at remote workers, freelancers, and individuals participating in approved soft power activities such as Muay Thai training, cooking courses, and cultural or sporting events. It allows a stay of up to 180 days per entry, with a single extension of an additional 180 days available at a local immigration office.

The firm addressed the broader DTV application process in a Siam Legal DTV Visa Thailand guide earlier this year, which applicants can consult alongside the current changes for background on eligibility and documentation.

Siam Legal International is a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting foreign nationals in Thailand, with offices in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and Pattaya. The firm provides comprehensive legal and immigration support across residency planning, property law, business law, family law and litigation.

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Siam Legal International

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