

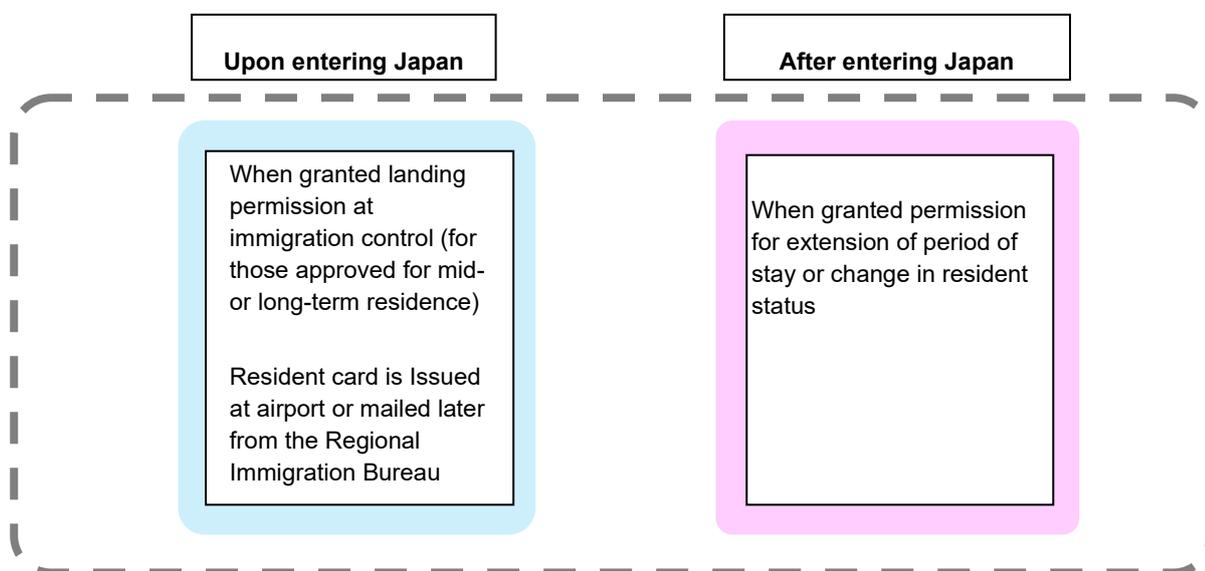
# IV Residency Management System • Basic Resident Registration System for Foreign Nationals • Marriage • Divorce

## IV-1 Resident Card

Resident cards are issued to foreign nationals who are staying in Japan legally as Mid- to Long-term Residents. Mid- and Long-term residents eligible for resident cards are those foreign nationals who do not fall under the categories below:

- ① Persons granted permission to stay three months or less
- ② Persons granted “Temporary Visitor” status
- ③ Persons granted “Diplomat” or “Official” status
- ④ Persons recognized by Ministry of Justice ordinance as equivalent to the foreign nationals listed above
- ⑤ Special Permanent Residents
- ⑥ Persons with no residence status

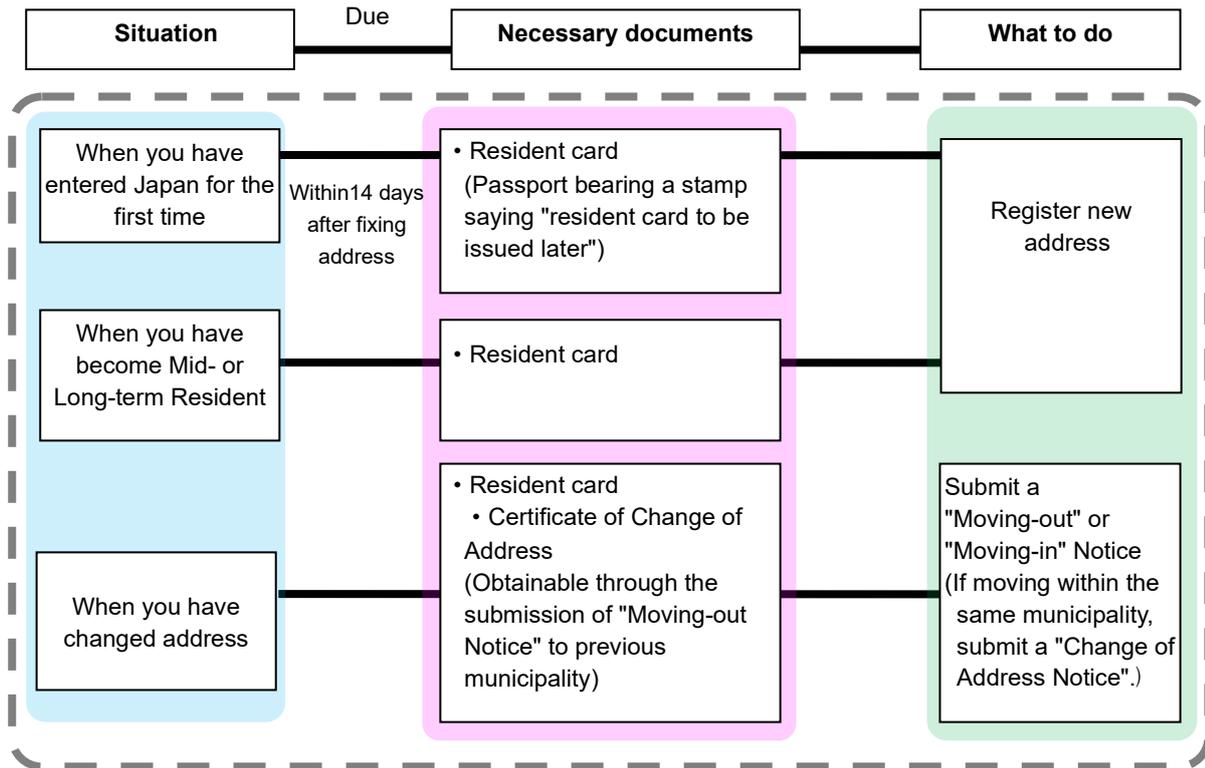
### 1. Issuance of Resident Card



A resident card is issued when a foreign national has been granted landing permission for the first time, when an application for change of status has been approved, or when an application for renewal of the period of stay has been approved.

A card-holder must have their resident card on them at all times. Requests from police or other officials to see the card must be obeyed. Those aged under sixteen, however, are exempted from carrying it at all times.

## 2. Procedures at Local Municipalities

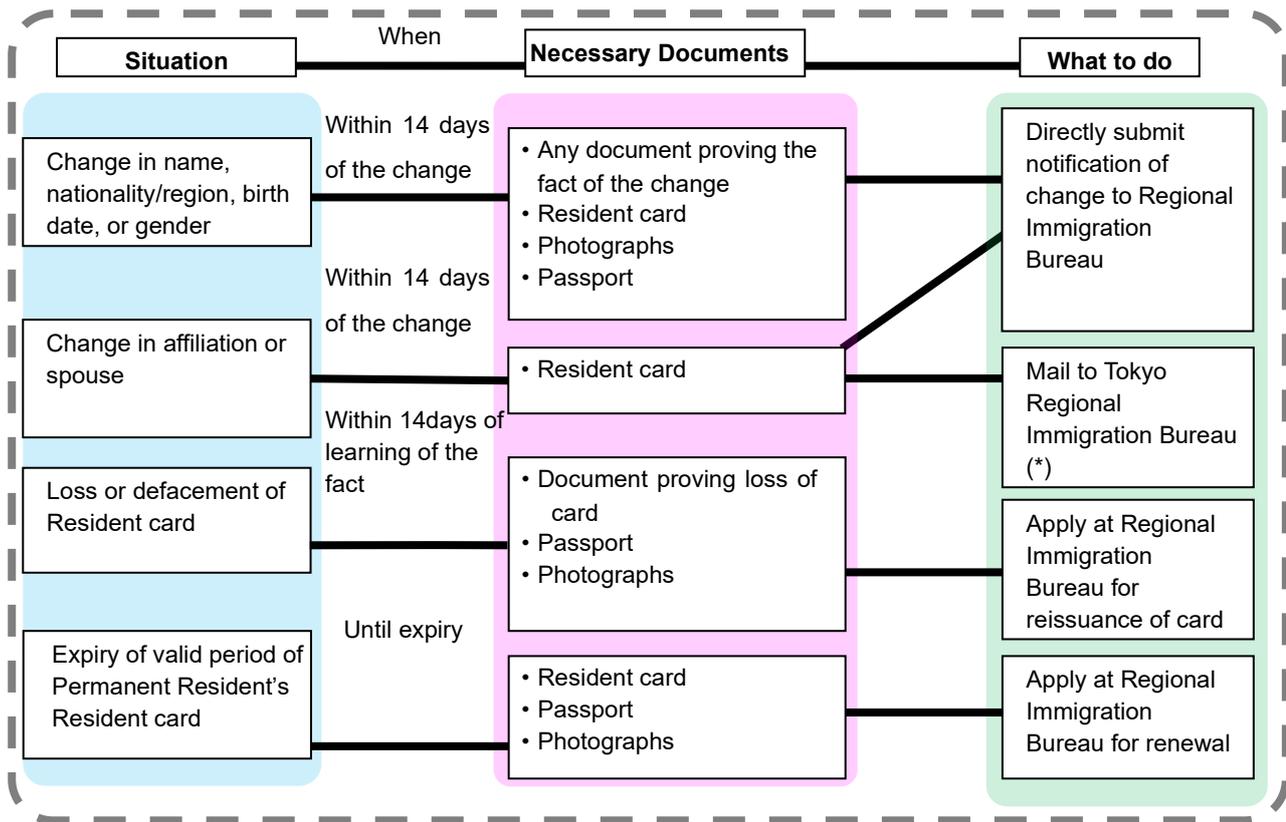


Resident cards can be issued at Kansai International Airport, Narita International Airport, Haneda International Airport, Central Japan International Airport, New Chitose Airport, Hiroshima Airport, or Fukuoka Airport to those who have been granted landing permission, namely mid- to long-term residents. If you enter Japan through any other air or sea port, your resident card will be mailed to you after you register your new address at the local municipality where you reside.

Your resident card includes a facial photograph and the following information: your name, nationality or region of origin, date of birth, gender, address, residence status, status expiration date, any restrictions on employment, or permission to engage in activities other than those permitted, if applicable. Address registration procedures must be completed at your local municipality office.

When you move into a new town, submit a "Moving-out Notice" to the town/city hall of your previous municipality, and submit a "Moving-in Notice" to the town/city hall of your new municipality within 14 days of moving. If you have your change of address registered on your resident card when you submit your "Moving-out" and "Moving-in Notices," there is no need to notify the nearest Regional Immigration Bureau of your change of address.

### 3. Procedures at Administrative Office of Regional Immigration Bureau



#### (1) Notification of Changes

If there has been any change to your name, nationality/region, date of birth, or gender, these changes should be reported directly to your Regional Immigration Bureau within 14 days. You will then receive a new resident card. If your status permits you to work, such as “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services”, or to study, such as “Student,” and your affiliation (employer, school, etc.) changes, you can either notify your local Regional Immigration Bureau directly within 14 days, or you can notify the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau (\*) by mail. If your status is “Dependent” or “Spouse of Japanese National,” and your spouse dies or you get divorced, this change should also be reported within 14 days.

(\*) Address:

Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau, Immigration Control Information Division, Notification Desk  
5-5-30 Konan, Minato Ward, Tokyo 108-8255

#### (2) Reissuance of Resident Cards

If your resident card is lost or has been stolen, you should apply to your Regional Immigration Bureau to have it reissued within 14 days, submitting documentation from the Police or Fire Department as proof of card loss.

#### (3) Resident Card Renewal for Permanent Residents

Permanent Residents over the age of sixteen or foreign residents with “Highly Skilled Professional (ii)” residence status can apply to renew the validity period of their resident cards two months before the expiry date, while those under sixteen can apply to renew the validity period up to six months before their sixteenth birthday. The resident cards of all non-Permanent Mid- and Long-Term Residents over the age of sixteen remain valid until the expiry date of their periods of stay.

#### **4. The Basic Resident Registration Law Applies to Foreign Residents**

Foreign residents are included in the Basic Resident Registration System. Certificates of Residence for foreign nationals bear the holders' names, birthdates, genders, and addresses, as well as information such as the name of the head of the household, nationality/region, status, and period of stay. Although resident cards will not list nicknames or aliases, these can be included in Certificates of Residence. A copy of the Certificate of Residence can be issued for foreign residents.

Foreign nationals whose period of stay is longer than three months and who have addresses in Japan are eligible for Certificates of Residence. Mid- and Long-term Residents, such as those listed below, will have Certificates of Residence.

1. Mid- and Long-term Residents
2. Special Permanent Residents
3. Those whose status is "Temporary Refuge" or "Provisional Stay"
4. Those who have acquired provisional status of residence through birth or loss of Japanese nationality

If a child has been born to foreign parents (i.e. does not have Japanese citizenship), the local municipality must be notified of his or her birth within 14 days. This procedure will enable the municipality to issue a Certificate of Residence for the baby, who has acquired provisional status of residence by birth. If the baby will remain in Japan for more than 60 days after birth, his or her guardian(s) must apply at the Regional Immigration Bureau for residence status for the baby within 30 days of his or her birth. If the baby is granted residence status as a Mid- or Long-term resident, the Regional Immigration Bureau will issue a resident card for the baby.

#### **5. Individual Number System**

Individual number, popularly called My Number, is a 12-digit identification number issued to all residents who've completed their resident registration in Japan. You will be given your personalized number for social security, taxation and disaster prevention measures during your stay in Japan. In principle, this number will remain the same for you whole residence in Japan. A My Number notification card will be sent out to your official address by registered mail in a couple of weeks after your resident certificate is created for the first time in Japan. A My Number card will be issued to those who wish to have one with or without a face photo.

Within 14 days after your address, name, or other vital information changes, you will need to have the change registered in your paper-version notification card (without a photo). Also when your resident status is changed or renewed, you need to have your My Number Card updated within 14 days. You can apply for this procedure 3 months before the expiration date written on your card.

For information about Notification Card, My Number Card and temporary suspension of use of a lost/stolen My Number card: call 0120-0178-27 (English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese languages available).

General Inquiries regarding My Number Card System or Mynaportal (Online Web Service): call 0120-0178-26

For inquiries in languages other than English, please call between 9:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.

URL <https://www.cao.go.jp/bangouseido/>

## IV-2 Necessary Procedures for Residence in Japan

### 1. Reentry Permit (When you temporarily leave Japan)

When temporarily leaving Japan within the validity period of your visa, you may obtain a reentry permit in order to enter Japan upon your return. The permit is valid for up to five years (but it cannot exceed your period of stay in Japan) and is available in single and multiple reentry forms. However, if your visa status is short-term, you are not entitled to obtain a reentry permit. The following documents are required for application:

- ① Application for reentry permit (This can be found at the reception desk of your local Regional Immigration Bureau.)
- ② Resident Card (Appendix IV-1)
- ③ Passport
- ④ 3,000 yen revenue stamp (for single reentry permits), 6,000 yen revenue stamp (for multiple reentry permits)

Reentry permits are usually issued on the day you apply. Applications in Osaka Prefecture are taken at the Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau.

The new Special Reentry Permit System allows foreign holders of valid passports and Resident Cards to reenter Japan without applying for a reentry permit, provided the foreign resident is returning to Japan within one year of departure and will resume his or her previous activities in Japan. In order to benefit from this system, please present your resident card to Immigration when you depart from Japan.

### 2. Extension of Period of Stay

There is a time limit to the length of stay you have been permitted in Japan. If you wish to extend this stay to continue the same activity you are currently engaged in, you must apply for renewal and obtain a permit. Applications can be made within three months of the limit of your current period of stay. The following documents are required:

- ① Application Form for extending your period of stay (This can be found at the receptionist's desk in your local Regional Immigration Bureau.)
- ② Passport
- ③ Resident Card
- ④ Documents that verify your activities in Japan, past, present and future (planned). (We recommend that you inquire in regard to the required documents at the Osaka Immigration Information Center (Appendix IX—2) as they differ with each status. The Ministry of Justice Immigration Services Agency of Japan also provides information on its homepage.)
- ⑤ Photo

#### Permit

Whether you are approved to remain in Japan or not will be determined by reviewing the documents you submit. The fact that a decision regarding your status is pending will be recorded on the back of your Resident Card when you apply. If your application is accepted, you will be issued a new Resident Card if you are a Mid- or Long-Term Resident.

### 3. Changing Residential Status from Current Permit Status

If you have a valid resident permit, but you start an activity categorized as requiring a different type of resident permit, you need to apply for a change in your status of residence. Under this system, you can change your resident status to a different category without leaving Japan (even temporarily). Please apply after the things requiring you to change your resident status

have happened and before your current permit expires.

Required documents differ depending on which status of residence you apply for, so please ask the Osaka Immigration Information Center. For further information, see the Immigration Bureau website:

URL [http://www.moj.go.jp/ONLINE/IMMIGRATION/ZAIRYU\\_HENKO/zairyu\\_henko10.html](http://www.moj.go.jp/ONLINE/IMMIGRATION/ZAIRYU_HENKO/zairyu_henko10.html)

(in Japanese only)

#### **4. Permission to Engage in Activities Other Than Those Permitted by Your Current Status of Residence**

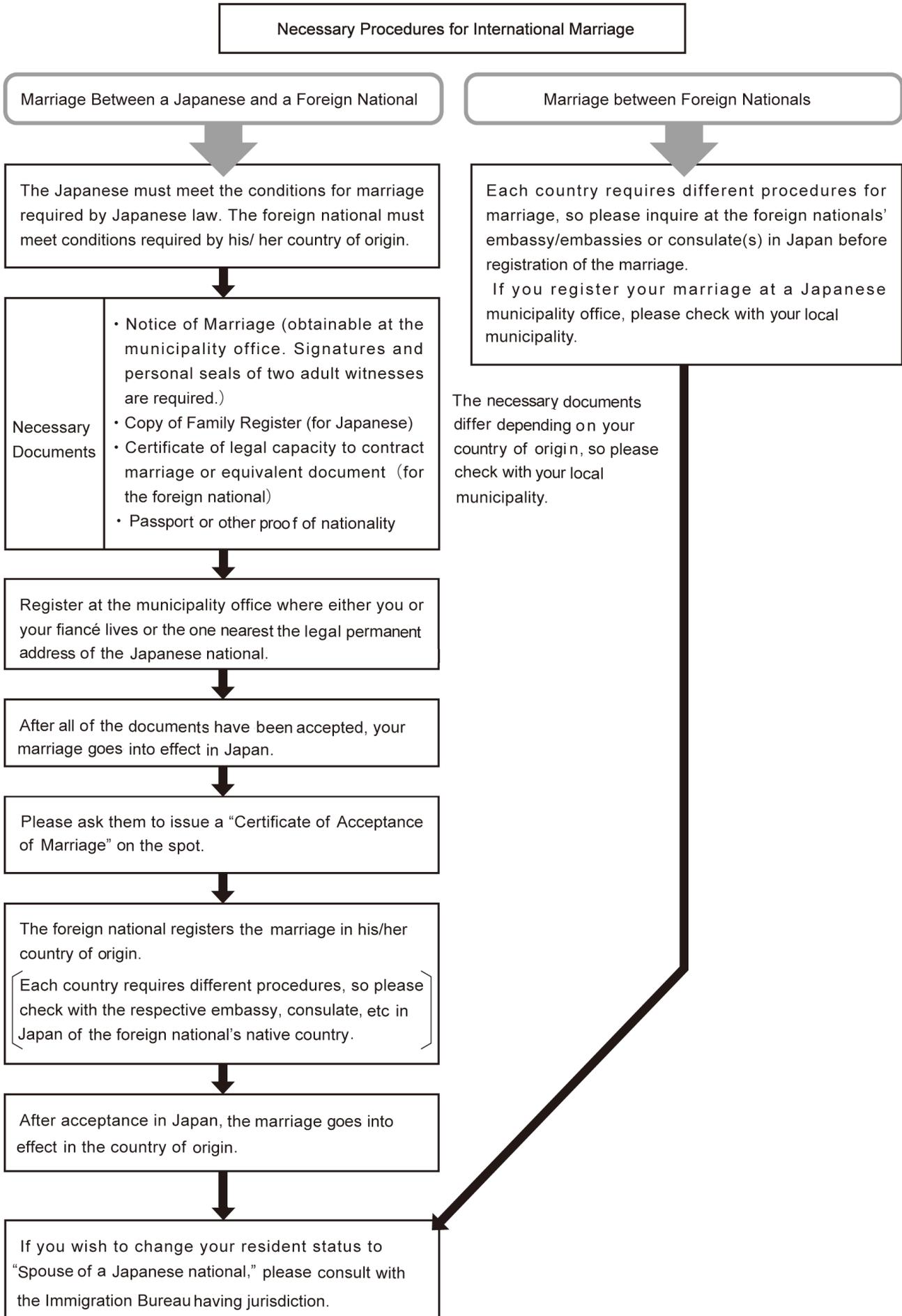
If you engage in any work not included in the activities permitted by your current status of residence, it will be regarded as illegal employment. For example, when an international student wishes to work at even a part time job, s/he must apply for “Permission to Engage in Activities Other Than Those Permitted by Current Status of Residence”. Before engaging in a full or part time job, please obtain permission from the Regional Immigration Bureau.

If you are arriving in Japan with “Student” status, it is now possible for you to apply for Permission to Engage in Activities Other Than Those Permitted by Current Status of Residence when you land at the airport (except for those whose stay will not exceed three months).

##### **Necessary Documents**

- ① Application form for “Permission to Engage in Activities Other Than Those Permitted by Current Status of Residence”
- ② Resident Card
- ③ Passport
- ④ Document that provides proof of your planned activity

## IV-3 Marriage



## 1. Marriage between a Japanese and Foreign National

When a Japanese and foreign national marry in Japan, they register their marriage by submitting a form to the local municipality office. The Japanese national has to meet the conditions required by the Japanese law, and the foreign national has to meet the conditions required by their country of origin. The documents below are required.

- ① Copy or abstract of family register (for Japanese)
- ② Passport (proof of nationality)
- ③ Certificate of legal capacity to contract marriage or equivalent document issued by the embassy or consulate of the country of origin. (Translation with the translator's name, address and stamped hanko [personal seal] must be attached to non-Japanese documents.)
- ④ Notification of Marriage (These are available at the local municipality office. In order to register your marriage, you must have the seals of two witnesses who are 20 years of age or older. In addition, the notification must be written in Japanese.)

Marriages registered in Japan should be reported to the foreign nationals' countries of origin. To do that, a "Certificate of Acceptance of Marriage" is required, so please ask the municipality where you register your marriage to issue it. Each country requires different procedures, so please check with the embassy or consulate of the country of origin. (Appendix Ⅸ—5)

A marriage is valid from the day it is registered.

## 2. Marriage between Foreign Nationals

It is possible, under certain conditions, for two foreign nationals to register their marriage bound by Japanese law. However, please note that the marriage contracted in Japan might not be immediately valid in the country of origin. For further information about the procedures for marriage registration, please check with your embassy or consulate (Appendix Ⅸ—5) and your municipality office in Japan (Appendix Ⅸ—1) where you intend to register your marriage.

## 3. Changing Resident Status

If you change your resident status to "Spouse of a Japanese National" after marrying a Japanese citizen, or if you switch to spouse visa because of marriage to another foreign national, please contact the Immigration Information Center Osaka for information. (Appendix Ⅸ—2)

## 4. Changing the Information on Your Resident Card

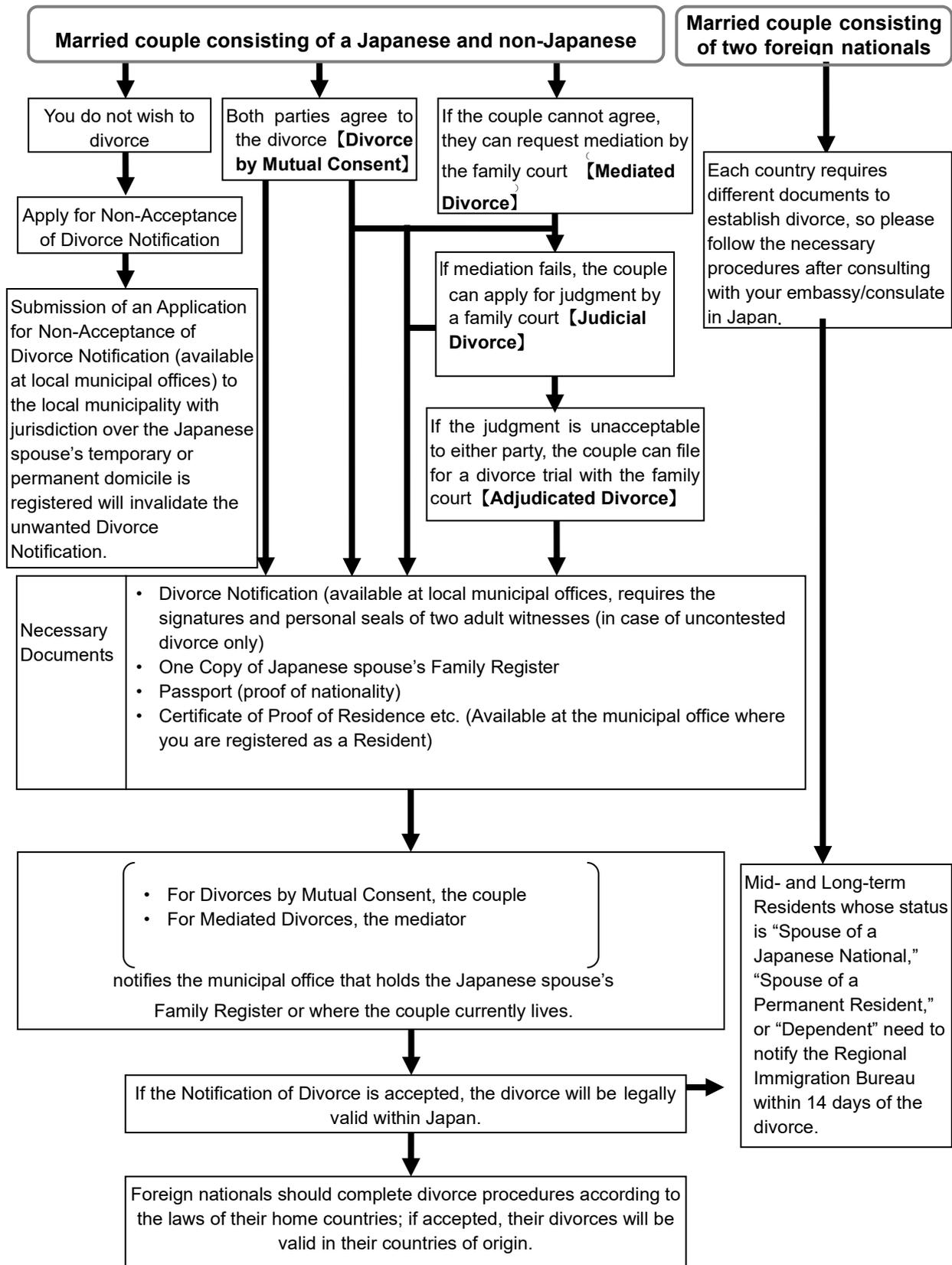
If you change your name because of marriage, you must submit notification of the change(s) to the Regional Immigration Bureau, and all other changes, such as your address or any other information, should be reported to your local municipality office (Appendix Ⅸ—1).

## 5. Other Changes

After you get married, applications and procedures, etc. for taxes, pension, Health Insurance, and benefits from your employer may be treated differently. Therefore, please check with the person in charge of human resources (personnel) in your company.

## IV-4 Divorce

Legal procedures concerning divorce in international marriages can be complicated. Even if the divorce is recognized according to the procedures undertaken in Japan, it may be not recognized as a valid divorce in your native country. Here, we provide only a general explanation regarding the procedures for divorce under Japanese law.



## **1. When You Divorce**

If a married couple in Japan agrees to divorce, they can do so under Japanese law as long as at least one of them is a Japanese national living in Japan. Japanese law stipulates four divorce scenarios: “Divorce by mutual consent” by which a notification of divorce is submitted, accepted, and deemed legitimate based on the agreement between the two; “Mediated divorce”; “Judicial divorce”; and “Adjudicated divorce”, the latter three of which are brought about through the involvement of family court. If you have divorced in Japan, but have not yet undertaken divorce procedures under the law of your native country, you are considered as still married in your native country, which may cause inconvenience to you. Thus, it is important to undertake procedures to get divorced in your native country as well.

When both husband and wife are non-Japanese, the requirements and necessary procedures for divorce may be different, depending on their country of origin. Such couples are advised to inquire about the proper procedures at their respective embassy/embassies or consulate(s) in Japan (Appendix IX—5).

## **2. When You Do Not Consent to a Divorce**

If your (Japanese) spouse unilaterally submits a signed divorce notification to the authorities without your consent, you may repeal its legal effect by submitting a non-acceptance request to the municipality office where your (Japanese) spouse’s permanent or temporary domicile has been registered. Once you submit this request, unless you agree to “divorce by consent,” you will not be forced to divorce by your spouse without mediation or other formal legal procedures. This system cannot be applied to married couples of foreign nationals, however.

## **3. Residence Status after Divorce**

If you are residing in Japan with the status of “Spouse of a Japanese National,” “Spouse of a Permanent Resident,” or “Dependent,” you need to report your divorce to your Regional Immigration Bureau within 14 days.

A person residing in Japan with the status of “Spouse of a Japanese National,” “Spouse of a Permanent Resident,” or “Dependent,” may have their status revoked if they fail to undertake activities as a spouse for more than six months. Failure to change one’s residence status can make it impossible to stay further in Japan. Thus, if you have any concerns, it is recommended that you make inquiries at consultation services or at the Immigration Information Center, Osaka (Appendix IX—2).

## **4. Changing Items in Your Resident Registration**

If you change your name after divorce, you need to submit notification to your Regional Immigration Bureau, while changes in your address should be reported to your local municipality office (Appendix IX—1).

## IV-5 Death

### 1. Death Notification

In the event that a foreign national dies in Japan, the same legal procedures are required as for Japanese citizens: notification must be submitted to the local municipality office no later than seven days after confirmation of the death. Only a licensed physician or medical examiner may validly confirm death in Japan, whatever the case may be.

If you are to report the death of a foreign national, you need to have a physician confirm the death and prepare a death certificate. The death certificate should be submitted to the authorities of the municipality where the death occurred or you reside. You should return the deceased's resident card to the Regional Immigration Bureau by mail or in person, or send it to the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau( \* ) Also, please perform any procedures required by the deceased's country of origin. The required procedures may differ depending on the country, so please check with the relevant embassy or consulate in Japan. (Appendix Ⅹ—5).

( \* ) Mail resident card to: Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau, Odaiba Office  
9F, Godo-chosha, Tokyo Wangan  
2-7-11 Oume, Koto-Ward, Tokyo 135-0064

### 2. Burials

In densely populated Osaka Prefecture, there are few cemeteries for burial. Consult the respective consulate or equivalent (Appendix Ⅹ—5) if the deceased person's body is not allowed to be cremated and must be buried under the earth due to his/her religion, beliefs or other customs, or if you plan to transfer the body to his/her native country.