



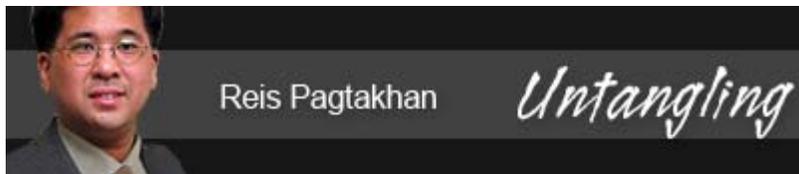
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Immigration Law: Work Permit Application for Your In-Canada Spouse

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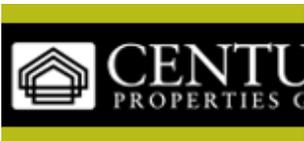
Individuals who are in spousal or common-law relationships with non-Canadians / permanent residents may sponsor their spouse/partner to immigrate to Canada. If the spouse/partner happens to be visiting Canada, the application may be filed inside Canada.

Can my spouse work while waiting for his/her permanent residency?

Not right away. After filing the In-Canada permanent-residency application, Citizenship and Immigration Canada will look at it to see if they can provide "first stage approval." If there are no problems with the application, first stage approval is usually granted. Once it has been granted, your spouse/partner will become eligible to obtain a Work Permit to work in Canada while they are waiting for their permanent residency. Currently, first stage approval takes about five to six months.

My spouse has received first-stage approval, can he/she now work?

Not necessarily. First stage approval only makes a person eligible to obtain a





Work Permit, which means that your spouse can actually work only when the Work Permit s/he has applied for has been issued.

How long does it take to get a Work Permit after first stage approval?
Currently the waiting time is about one month.



Is there a way my spouse can get a Work Permit earlier than one month after first stage approval?

If your spouse wants to work as soon as possible, then s/he must file a Work Permit application at the same time she would the In-Canada application for permanent residency. Doing this, the Work Permit will usually arrive around the same time as the first stage approval.



If my spouse does not want to work, why should I rush to get a Work Permit?
Even if your spouse does not want to work, getting a Work Permit may be a good idea because a visitor in Manitoba with a 12-month Work Permit becomes eligible for some Manitoba Health coverage. In addition, that person's children (in case s/he has)—your stepchildren—would be covered also.



Another advantage is that once the spouse/partner gets a Work Permit, any of his/her children of minor age would immediately be given the right to study in Canada without having to obtain a study permit. This is especially important for stepchildren who are of school age.



This article is prepared for general information purposes only and is intended to provide comments for readers and friends of Filipino Journal. The contents should not be viewed as legal advice or opinion. If you have specific questions concerning immigration law, you should discuss them with a legal advisor of your choice.

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