



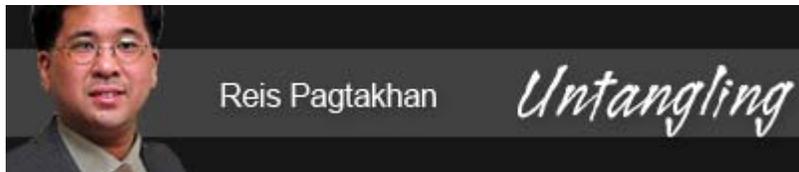
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Immigration Law: When Does a Visitor Status Expire?

The temporary resident visa (TRV) (formerly called visitor visa) that its holder receives has an expiry date, which is not normally the date by which the person must leave Canada. It is important that any visitor understands the differences between those two dates.

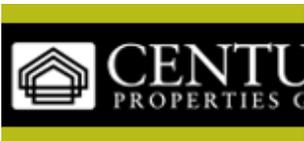
What does the expiry date on a TRV mean?

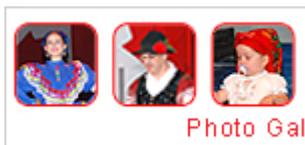
The expiry date on a TRV indicates the last day the holder can use it to enter Canada. If the visa is a single-entry visa, its holder may use it only once, even if it is not yet expired. If it is a multiple-entry visa, the holder may use it as many times as possibly needed until its expiry date.

How does the expiry date on a TRV differ from the expiry date of the holder's status in Canada?

When a person enters Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency officer at the airport or land-border crossing does one of the following:

- 1. s/he stamps the passport with a date stamp;
2. s/he stamps the passport with a date stamp and then handwrites a date





underneath the date stamp;

3. s/he may or may not stamp the passport but print out a document entitled "Visitor Record"; or

4. s/he does not give anything to the traveler nor does s/he stamp the passport.

The date a person must leave Canada depends on what the officer does.

What is the expiry date if the passport was stamped?

If the passport was stamped and (1) no expiry date was written in and (2) no Visitor Record was printed up, the person is then entitled to be in Canada for six months from the date of the passport stamp.

What happens if the passport was stamped and a date was written underneath the stamp?

If the passport was stamped and a date was written underneath the stamp, the date the officer wrote would be the date the holder must leave Canada or extend his stay. In most cases, the date the officer writes is six months from the date of entry, but there are cases when it can be different.

What happens if the person was issued a Visitor Record?

If the person was issued a Visitor Record (which is a separate piece of paper printed out and either handed to the person or stapled onto her/his passport), s/he must abide by the document's terms and conditions. In the top right hand section of that document, an expiry date will be entered. The person must either leave Canada or extend her/his status in Canada by that date.

What happens if the person did not receive anything from an officer and her/his passport was not stamped?

If the passport was not stamped and the person did not receive anything from the officer, s/he has six months from the date s/he entered Canada to leave the country or extend her/his status.

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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