



Preventative Law Series

Updating Dependent's Japanese Immigration Status to Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) Status

This handout describes the procedures to adjust your Japanese immigration status to SOFA status. Please note that these procedures are not applicable to Japanese nationals.

Dependents of members of the U.S. armed forces and civilian components are eligible to acquire SOFA status. Dependents under SOFA are defined as spouses, children under 21 or parents and children over 21 if dependent for over half of their support upon their sponsor.

By adjusting your immigration status to SOFA status, you become entitled to SOFA benefits, but forfeit your current Japanese immigration status and any rights associated with it.

If you are a Japanese Permanent Resident, you cannot also acquire SOFA status. To switch to SOFA status, you will be required to relinquish your Japanese permanent residency. You will not automatically regain your permanent residency status unless you satisfy the requirements under the Japanese Immigration Act. The procedures to switch your status from permanent resident to SOFA status differs from the one described in this handout. For more information, please contact your local legal assistance office.

If you are under Japanese immigration status other than Permanent Resident, you may switch your status to SOFA status by following the steps outlined below:

1. Complete the attached USFJ Form 8EJ, Confirmation of Eligibility under SOFA, and have your sponsor's command complete the backside of the form under "For the United States."

2. Visit the local Japanese Immigration Office with the following items:

- Valid passport
- Dependent ID card
- Completed USFJ Form 8EJ
- Letter of dependency (for military member's dependents)
- Residence card (if applicable)
- Letter of employment with dependent information (for civilian employee's dependents)
- Certificate of permission to engage in more activities than allowed by their visa (if applicable)

Although these documents are not required, they may be requested by your local Japanese Immigration Office

- Sponsor's Military/DOD ID cards (if sponsor goes to Immigration office with the applicant)
- PCS Order (for military member's dependents)
- Letter of Authorization (for civilian employee's dependents)
- Proof of change of status (e.g. marriage certificate)

3. Receive the completed USFJ Form 8EJ from the Japanese Immigration Office. If you provided your resident card to the immigration officer, request your now invalidated resident card to be returned to you.

4. Obtain a "multiple exit/reentry" stamp on your passport by bringing your 1) USFJ Form 8EJ; 2) passport; 3) letter of dependency (or letter of employment for civilian employees); and 4) invalidated Japanese resident card (if applicable) to the following:

a. If located in Yokosuka, visit the CFAY Fast Office Team located at room #347 on the 3rd floor of Fleet Recreation Center.

b. If located in Sasebo, please contact CFAS Admin by email: cfasadmin@us.navy.mil.

Reference: USFJ Instruction 36-2611, 15 June 2018, Change of Status by Persons in Japan to one of the Categories Authorized by the Status of Forces Agreement

Japanese Immigration Information Center:

03-5796-7112 / 0570-013-904 (0830-1715 weekdays)

List of Regional Immigration Offices: <https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/about/region/>

Yokohama District Immigration Office

Office hours: 0900-1600 (except for Sat, Sun and national holidays)

Yokohama Office

Location: 10-7 Torihama-cho, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa

Telephone number: 045-769-1729

<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/about/region/yokohama/>



1. Go to the 2nd floor, and you will find the station #1 “Information Center”.
2. Tell them you want to switch to SOFA status and they will give you 2 forms.
3. Go to station #5 “Information”, and get a ticket at touch screen kiosk.
4. Fill out the 2 forms while you are waiting to be called.

Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau

Office hours: 0900-1200, and 1300-1600 (except for Sat, Sun and national holidays)

Fukuoka Office, Status Department

Location: Fukuoka Legal Affairs Government Complex No.1

3-5-25, Maizuru, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka

Telephone number: 092-717-7595

Nagasaki Branch Office

Location: Nagasaki Port Joint Government Bldg., 7-29 Matsugaeda-machi, Nagasaki City, Nagasaki

Telephone number: 095-822-5289

Saga Branch Office

Location: 6th floor, Saga 2nd Joint Government Building 3-3-20 Ekimae-Chuo, Saga City, Saga

Telephone number: 0952-36-6262

<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/about/region/fukuoka/index.html>



**CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY
UNDER
STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT
日米地位協定該当確認書**

(Authority: USFJ Instruction 36-2611)

(根拠： 在日米軍インストラクション 36-2611)

1. Applicant's Name: _____

申出者氏名

Date of Birth: _____

生年月日

Sex: _____ Nationality: _____

性別

国籍

2. The US Armed Forces express our intention to invite the individual mentioned above as

Spouse Child Parent under Article I (c) of the Status of Forces Agreement.

在日米軍は、上記の者を、日米地位協定第1条(c)の 配偶者 子 親として招聘しようとしていることを表明する。

3. Director, _____ Regional Immigration Services Bureau, _____
Branch Office has confirmed that the individual mentioned in the above paragraph 1 has obtained the
necessary documents as prescribed in an agreement of the US-Japan Joint Committee.

_____地方出入国在留管理局 _____出張所は、上記1の者が、日米合同委員会合意において記載される必要な文書を所持していること
を確認した。

4. The individual mentioned in the above paragraph 1 falls under Article I (c) of the Status of Forces
Agreement as Spouse Child Parent and is subject to the Status of Forces Agreement.

上記1の者は日米地位協定第1条(c)の 配偶者 子 親に該当し、日米地位協定の適用を受ける。

USFJ FORM 8EJ (Cont'd)

在日米軍様式 8EJ (続き)

For the United States: 合衆国のために	For Japan: 日本国のために
<p>Signature: _____ 署名</p> <p>Date: _____ 日付</p> <p>Name and Rank: _____ 氏名・階級</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Organization: _____ 部隊</p> <p>POC Email and Phone: _____ 担当者電子メール・電話</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Signature or Seal: _____ 署名又は印</p> <p>Date: _____ 日付</p> <p>Name: _____ 氏名</p> <p>Director, _____ Regional Immigration Services Bureau, _____ Branch Office _____ 地方出入国在留管理局 _____ 出張所長</p> <p>POC Email and Phone: _____ 担当者電子メール・電話</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Remark: 備考</p>	<p>Remark: 備考</p>

Instructions on how to fill out USFJ FORM 8EJ

**CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY
UNDER
STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT**
日本地位協定該当確認書

Fill these paragraphs by yourself

Instruction 36-26(1)
24-399297 36-26(1)

1. Applicant's Name: _____
 1. 申請者氏名 _____

Date of Birth: _____
 2. 生年月日 _____

Sex: _____
 性別 _____

Nationality: _____
 国籍 _____

Information for your dependent who is switching to SOFA status

2. The US Armed Forces express our intention to invite the individual mentioned.
 Spouse Child Parent under Article 1 (c) of the Status of Forces Agreement.
 在日米軍は、上記の者、日本地位協定第1条(c)の配偶者 親子 親比で招待しようとする者とする。

Check only one.

3. Director, _____ Regional Immigration Services Bureau, _____
 Branch Office has confirmed that the individual mentioned in the above paragraph 1 has obtained the necessary documents as prescribed in an agreement of the US-Japan Joint Committee.
 地方出入国管理当局 出発所は、上記1の者が、日米合同委員会において記載される必要な文書を所持していることを確認した。

4. The individual mentioned in the above paragraph 1 falls under Article 1 (c) of the Status of Forces Agreement as Spouse Child Parent and is subject to the Status of Forces Agreement.
 上記1の者は日本地位協定第1条(c)の配偶者 親子 親比に該当し、日本地位協定の適用を受ける。

Check only one.

Ask your command/company to fill out this area

USFJ FORM 8EJ (Cont'd)
在日米軍様式 8EJ (続き)

For the United States:
 合衆国のために

Signature: _____
 署名 _____

Date: _____
 日付 _____

Name and Rank: _____
 氏名・階級 _____

Organization: _____
 部隊 _____

POC Email and Phone: _____
 担当者電子メール・電話 _____

Remark: _____
 備考 _____

For Japan:
 日本国のために

Signature or Seal: _____
 署名又は印 _____

Date: _____
 日付 _____

Name: _____
 氏名 _____

Director, _____ Regional Immigration Services Bureau, _____
 地方出入国管理当局 出発所長 _____ Branch Office

POC Email and Phone: _____
 担当者電子メール・電話 _____

Remark: _____
 備考 _____

Keep them blank.
 Japanese Immigration Officer will fill them out.

(Command Letter Head)

5800
Ser XXX/XXX
DD MMM YY

To whom it may concern,

It is certified that (dependent(s) name in full and relationship) is/are the dependent(s) of (rank/rate/sponsor's full name) who is serving on board (command's full name), homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, until rotation in (month and year of expected rotation).

It is further certified the member's dependent is/are dependent fall under Article I, Paragraph 1(c) of the Status of Forces Agreement.

(Signature of Official)

Type Name