Siam Legal Clarifies Entry Stamp Rules for Privilege Visa Holders

August 25, 2026

Bangkok, Thailand - August 25, 2026 -
Siam Legal International, a full-service law firm with more than 22 years of experience assisting foreign nationals in Thailand, is addressing a recurring point of confusion among Thailand Privilege Visa members following an internal review of the questions most frequently raised during client consultations.

The firm's Elite Visa Team said that after working through consultations with thousands of Privilege Visa holders, one issue continues to surface more than any other: a misunderstanding between the multi-year visa sticker placed in a passport and the entry stamp issued separately at the immigration counter. The visa sticker functions only as permission to enter Thailand, the team explained, while the physical entry stamp recorded on each arrival is the document that legally governs how long a member may remain in the country.

Each entry under the Thailand Privilege Visa carries a maximum permission of stay of one year, marked by the admitted until date printed on the entry stamp. If an immigration officer mistakenly issues a standard 30 or 60-day visa exemption stamp instead of the full one-year stay tied to the program, the firm said, that shorter stamp becomes the member's binding legal deadline regardless of the multi-year visa term itself. Members are advised to check the entry stamp before leaving the immigration counter on every arrival.

Overstaying a permitted stay in Thailand carries a statutory fine of 500 Thai baht per day, capped at 20,000 Thai baht, under the Immigration Act B.E. 2522, with longer overstays carrying additional re-entry restrictions. That penalty structure, according to the firm, is one reason it continues to advise members to build simple verification habits into their travel routine rather than rely on memory of the visa term alone.

Rex Baay, Senior Immigration Consultant and Operations Manager, said the distinction between visa validity and permission of stay is one that catches even experienced long-term residents. "A lot of members confuse their visa validity with their permission of stay, when the entry stamp from that specific arrival is what immigration will actually enforce," Baay said. "Photographing the passport stamp page after every entry and setting a calendar reminder ahead of the admitted until date gives members a simple record of their own timeline without having to search through the physical passport."

The Thailand Privilege Visa includes unlimited multiple entry as a standard program feature, meaning members may travel outside Thailand as often as they choose, with each return generating a new one-year period tied to a fresh entry stamp. Members who remain in Thailand continuously for a full year without traveling abroad must instead file for an in-country one-year stay extension at a local immigration office before the existing admitted until date lapses, a separate process from the re-entry reset.

The guidance builds on an earlier Siam Legal Thailand Privilege Visa report, which examined growing interest in the program among professionals seeking long-term residency built around a multi-year stay rather than repeated short-term visas. As more members commit to the program over extended periods, entry and re-entry compliance has become a more routine part of the firm's consultations.

The topic is also covered in a Siam Legal's Ask Rex episode, which walks through common member questions on passport stamps, re-entry timing, and habits that reduce the chance of an unintentional overstay.

The firm's Elite Visa Team continues to assist Thailand Privilege Visa members with entry verification, re-entry planning, and the in-country extension process as part of its regular consultation work.

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

###

For more information about Siam Legal International, contact the company here:Siam Legal InternationalRex Baay+662 254 8900info@siam-legal.com18th Floor, Unit 1806 Two Pacific Place,142 Sukhumvit Rd, Khlong Toei,Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Siam Legal International

American-managed Thailand law firm with 22+ years? experience. Experts in corporate setup, BOI, FBL, family & divorce, property, litigation, immigration, notary, wills, contracts & due diligence across Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya & more.

Website: https://www.siam-legal.com/

Email: info@siam-legal.com

Phone: +662 254 8900