

## PANAMA IMPLEMENTS AFFILIATION FOR MIGRANTS TO OBTAIN WORK PERMITS

Thru Executive Decree N° 76 of December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Executive Cabinet added an article to the Executive Decree N° 17 of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999, which classifies the different categories of work permits as well as the requirements for their approval and regulates articles 17 and 18 of the Labor Code which relates to nationals job protection.

Through this addition, the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development seeks to create a database by implementing a biometric system in the Labor Migration Department of the Employment Directorate as a security measure called "affiliation" for the migrant who aspires to obtain or renew a work permit in its different classifications. Said affiliation includes the reading of fingerprints, passport and photography.

Before initiating a work permit procedure or its respective renewal, the foreigner must personally perform the affiliation process at the Labor Migration Department. This mechanism of affiliation also aims to implement a computer system that will make more efficient and reliable the process of obtaining a work permit.

For additional questions or doubts about the affiliation system for obtaining or renewing work permits, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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