Social Services

EPIC One-stop Consultation Desk for Foreigners

This is a good place to start if you have a question or need help. They can direct you to where you can get the help you need. Service available in more than 20 languages using a translation service in a 3-way call. You can call the following number or go to EPIC in person. Check the website for more information: https://www.epic.or.jp/kurasu/sodan.html#SEC1

Tel. 080-4783-5253

Monday—Saturday 9:00 – 17:00

Civil Liberties Counseling

Free paralegal counseling sessions for civil rights are sponsored by the District Legal Affairs Bureau and the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC). All sessions will be strictly confidential.

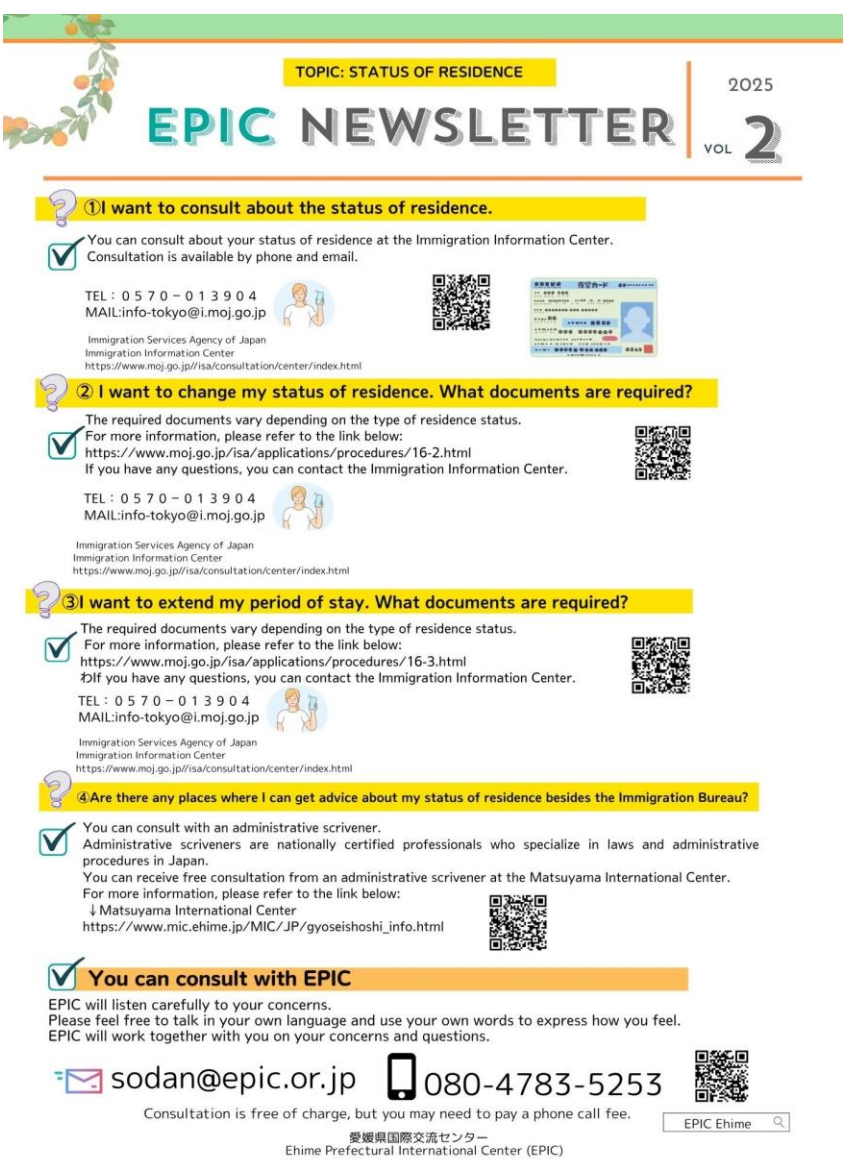
Place: EPIC

Day/Time: 13:30-15:30 the 4th Thursday of each month.

To request another time, call EPIC at 089- 917-5678.

Languages: Japanese & English

(For help in another language, contact EPIC by the 10th of the month.)



TOPIC: STATUS OF RESIDENCE

EPIC NEWSLETTER 2025 VOL 2

①I want to consult about the status of residence.

You can consult about your status of residence at the Immigration Information Center.
Consultation is available by phone and email.

TEL：0570－013904
MAIL:info-tokyo@i.moj.go.jp

Immigration Services Agency of Japan
Immigration Information Center
https://www.moj.go.jp//isa/consultation/center/index.html

② I want to change my status of residence. What documents are required?

The required documents vary depending on the type of residence status.
For more information, please refer to the link below:
https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/procedures/16-2.html
If you have any questions, you can contact the Immigration Information Center.

TEL：0570－013904
MAIL:info-tokyo@i.moj.go.jp

Immigration Services Agency of Japan
Immigration Information Center
https://www.moj.go.jp//isa/consultation/center/index.html

③I want to extend my period of stay. What documents are required?

The required documents vary depending on the type of residence status.
For more information, please refer to the link below:
https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/procedures/16-3.html
わIf you have any questions, you can contact the Immigration Information Center.

TEL：0570－013904
MAIL:info-tokyo@i.moj.go.jp

Immigration Services Agency of Japan
Immigration Information Center
https://www.moj.go.jp//isa/consultation/center/index.html

④Are there any places where I can get advice about my status of residence besides the Immigration Bureau?

You can consult with an administrative scrivener.
Administrative scriveners are nationally certified professionals who specialize in laws and administrative procedures in Japan.
You can receive free consultation from an administrative scrivener at the Matsuyama International Center.
For more information, please refer to the link below:
↓Matsuyama International Center
https://www.mic.ehime.jp/MIC/JP/gyoseishoshi_info.html

You can consult with EPIC

EPIC will listen carefully to your concerns.
Please feel free to talk in your own language and use your own words to express how you feel.
EPIC will work together with you on your concerns and questions.

sodan@epic.or.jp 080-4783-5253

Consultation is free of charge, but you may need to pay a phone call fee.

EPIC Ehime

愛媛県国際交流センター
Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC)

Free Legal Consultation Service

Certified administrative procedures legal specialists (*gyouseishoshi*) are offer free 30-minute consultation services to non-Japanese on various matters such as residency, nationality, marriage, owning a vehicle, contracts, and setting up a business.

This service is supported by the Matsuyama International Center (MIC). To make an appointment, please complete the consultation form by 4:00 pm the Sunday before. The form is available at MIC. Your privacy will be protected.

Dates: Nov. 12, Dec. 10 (Wed.) 13:30-15:30

Place: COMS 4F International Meeting Room

For more information email MIC at mail@mic.ehime.jp or call 089-943-2025.

Community Life

Community Life is a local NPO that provides legal advice and help with daily life issues for free. They will do what they can to help you solve your problem and will arrange for translation in your language, if requested.

Email: foreignerfriendly@gmail.com

MIC Volunteers

Do you need help and some language support to go to the doctor, apply for a driver's license, or deal with official documents? MIC Volunteers (formerly called Otasukeman), a service of the Matsuyama International Center, will help you if you are having trouble managing your life in Matsuyama. The service is free, but you will be expected to pay for transportation. Your privacy will be respected, and only the person who helps you will be given the details of the kind of help you need. You can request their services by calling MIC at 089-943-2025 between 9:00 and 17:30 Tuesday through Sunday. Or fill out the request form here:
https://www.mic.ehime.jp/MIC/FORM/Applyform_otasukeman.html?Subject=I%20need%20OTASUKEMAN%20!!

Japan Life Guide

The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations "Japan Life Guide" app has basic information concerning such topics as taxes, pension system, for foreign residents in Japan in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, German, Russian, Japanese (with Japanese syllabaries/furigana) and Simple Japanese are available. You can use this app as an everyday guide as well as in times of disaster.

http://www.clair.or.jp/e/multiculture/index.html

Bicycle Insurance/Registration

It is strongly recommended that you get the Traffic Safety (TS) Mark bicycle insurance. TS Mark insurance covers:

1) Liability (harm or damage to another person or property)
2) Accidents (harm or damage to yourself or your property)

To get a TS Mark sticker, have your bicycle checked for safety at a bicycle shop. Don't forget to have it checked every year.

Cost: ¥2000-¥3000 (TS Mark insurance is included.)

In Japan bicycles are registered in your name when you buy one. If someone gives you a bicycle you should have the registration changed to your name or the previous owner should give you the registration document and a note saying you can use it. Otherwise, if you are stopped by the police they will think it is a stolen bicycle.

Basic bicycle rules are shown in this video:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC5IDlb11wnpYNxEi44GvUQ

Yui Ehime Youtube Channel

Yui Ehime has a new YouTube channel, Yui Ehime, and has updated its three videos about cycling rules, garbage rules and riding a bus. It will soon be adding a video providing information on seeing a doctor in Japan.
Check them out!
Here is the new Youtube address:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC5IDlb11wnpYNxEi44GvUQ

Matsuyama City Central Library

The Central Library in the Community Center has a large English book section. You can register for a free library card in English. The 2nd floor Audio/Visual section has movies in English.

They now have a 'Multicultural Corner' with a Japan (learning about the culture and language) section, a foreign language periodical section and a multicultural coexistence section. At the counter they have an English guide sheet to help you find what you want.

Open 9:30-20:00 Closed Nov. 10, 17 & 28. INFO 089-943-8008

The Association of Foreign Wives of Japanese

AFWJ aims to provide friendship, support and opportunities for social, emotional, educational and professional growth to non-Japanese women who are married or engaged to Japanese men.

INFO: afwjshikoku-rep@afwj.org, Website: www.afwj.org