



TORII LEGAL OFFICE

INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION



CERTIFICATION OF SOFA STATUS

SOFA status allows the individual to stay in Japan without a Japanese visa (otherwise the general limit is a 90 day tourist visa). The Japanese immigration office requires a SOFA certification letter and a USFJ Form, both signed by this office before they will recognize SOFA status for a civilian or family member individual who arrives in Japan WITHOUT getting a SOFA stamp in their passport. The following documents are required to verify SOFA status:

DEPARTMENT OF ARMY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE

Letter of Employment issued by Army Japan Civilian Personnel Office

Passport

ID

CONTRACTORS (ARMY)

Letter of Authorization from Government Contracting Officer

Passport

ID

FAMILY MEMBERS

Sponsor's orders, employment letter

Marriage certificate, Birth certificate, adoption document to prove relation to sponsor

Sponsor's Affidavit of Support for children over 21 or parents, parent-in-laws

Passport

ID

***Those who have permanent residency status must cancel his or her permanent residency at the Kadena Immigration Office **BEFORE** SOFA status is given.**