INDIALAW

OCI/PIO and Long-Term Visa Services

OCI, PIO, and Long-Term Visa Services Law Firm in India for NRIs

PRACTICE PROFILE • OCTOBER 2026

Overview

- OCI Card Applications: Assistance with filing and processing of Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) applications, including eligibility review and document handling.
- PIO and Long-Term Visa Support: Guidance for Persons of Indian Origin and foreign nationals seeking long-duration visas to India.

Key Professionals



K.P. Sreejith
Founder



Shiju P V
Managing Partner

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 **What do OCI/PIO and long-term visa services cover in practice?**

These services encompass eligibility assessment, application preparation, and processing of Overseas Citizenship of India cards, PIO cardholders' transitions to OCI status, and long-duration visa applications for foreign nationals with ties to India. Document verification and liaison with consular offices are included.

Q2 **When should someone begin the OCI or long-term visa application process?**

Ideally, begin at least three to four months before any planned travel or relocation. Processing times at Indian missions vary widely. Early filing allows time to address discrepancies in civil documents, name changes, or renunciation certificate delays that commonly stall applications.

Q3 **Which Indian law and authority governs OCI and long-term visa issuance?**

OCI is governed by Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, read with the Citizenship Rules, 2009. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bureau of Immigration administer the scheme. Long-term visas fall under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and visa policy guidelines issued by MHA.

Q4 **How long does OCI card processing typically take and what drives delays?**

Standard processing at Indian consulates takes four to eight weeks, though delays of twelve weeks or more are common during peak periods. Key delay drivers include incomplete supporting documents, mismatched names across records, and pending police verification for certain applicant categories.

Q5 **What documents are needed to file an OCI application?**

Core documents include a valid foreign passport, proof of Indian origin (birth certificate, parent or grandparent's Indian passport), renunciation or surrender certificate, marriage certificate if claiming through a spouse, and passport-size photographs meeting ICAO specifications.

Q6 **What common mistakes cause OCI or long-term visa applications to be rejected?**

Frequent errors include submitting documents with inconsistent name spellings, failing to disclose prior Indian passport details, not obtaining a surrender certificate before applying, and uploading photos that do not meet prescribed specifications. Each rejection resets processing timelines entirely.

Related Practice Areas

Immigration Law | Document Legalization and Compliance | Citizenship and Residency Services