

SETTLEHAPPY DATA SERIES | 2026 Q3

Family Visa and Spouse Work-Rights Matrix

Fifteen route snapshots across Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Edition	2026 Q3
Destinations	5
Routes	15
Core rule	Residence is not work permission

Read this first

This matrix organises research questions and official starting points. It is not immigration, employment or tax advice and does not decide personal eligibility.

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How to read the matrix

Start with the principal's real activity. Then check spouse residence, every child's status, the spouse's work activity and what happens if the sponsor, job, relationship or qualifying condition changes.

Thailand

Route	Principal use	Spouse residence	Children	Spouse work	Change risk	Official source
Destination Thailand Visa (DTV)	Qualifying remote work or specified activities	Eligible spouse can apply as a dependant	Eligible dependent children can apply; a child studying as the main purpose may need Non-ED	No automatic Thai employment right; match the spouse's real activity to its own permission	Track each 180-day admission, extensions and the principal's continuing basis	Thailand e-Visa - DTV Checked 11 September 2026
Long-Term Resident (LTR)	One of four high-threshold principal categories	Legal spouse may apply separately	Qualifying children under 20 may apply separately	Not automatic; confirm work authorisation for the spouse's exact role	Income, employment, investment and health-cover conditions can continue after approval	Thailand BOI - LTR programme Checked 11 September 2026
Employer-sponsored Non-B / work route	Employment for a Thai entity	Linked non-immigrant family status may be available	Linked family or education status, depending on circumstances	Separate employer-led status and work authorisation normally required	Employment ending can affect the principal and linked family status quickly	Thailand Department of Employment - foreign workers Checked 11 September 2026

Malaysia

Route	Principal use	Spouse residence	Children	Spouse work	Change risk	Official source
DE Rantau Nomad Pass	Eligible digital professional or freelancer	Qualifying dependant spouse can join	Qualifying dependant children can join	No - MDEC states the dependant spouse cannot work on that status	Published maximum is 12 months plus one renewal, up to 24 months total	MDEC - DE Rantau FAQ Checked 11 September 2026
MM2H Silver / Gold / SEZ-SFZ	Capital-backed social-visit programme	Eligible spouse is included within the dependant rules	Qualifying children and certain other dependants can join	Not under these MM2H categories; another appropriate pass is needed	Fixed deposit, property, stay and renewal conditions apply; the programme is not permanent residence	Malaysia MOTAC - MM2H FAQ Checked 11 September 2026
MM2H Platinum	Higher-capital MM2H category with published career and business permission for the participant	Eligible spouse is included within the dependant rules	Qualifying children and certain other dependants can join	Dependant work is not automatic; confirm and obtain the appropriate permission	High fixed-deposit, property, participation and minimum-stay obligations remain	Malaysia MOTAC - MM2H programme Checked 11 September 2026
Employment Pass	Employer-sponsored professional role	Dependant Pass may be available where the principal category qualifies	Eligible children can use linked dependant arrangements	Own Employment Pass or other appropriate work permission required	The sponsoring employer and role anchor the family's status	Malaysia ESD - Employment Pass Checked 11 September 2026

Vietnam

Route	Principal use	Spouse residence	Children	Spouse work	Change risk	Official source
Employer-sponsored work permit and residence	Qualifying employment with a Vietnamese sponsor	Linked family visa or residence may be available where the principal status qualifies	Eligible children may use linked family status	Family residence is not work permission; resolve the spouse's employer, permit or exemption separately	A sponsor or job change can affect work and residence documents for the household	Vietnam immigration law Checked 11 September 2026
Qualifying investment or family sponsorship	Genuine investment or eligible Vietnamese-family relationship	Depends on the principal code, sponsor and relationship	Depends on the principal code, age and relationship evidence	Separate work-permit or exemption analysis is required	Capital, company, sponsor or relationship changes can remove the basis	Vietnam Immigration Department Checked 11 September 2026

Indonesia

Route	Principal use	Spouse residence	Children	Spouse work	Change risk	Official source
E33G remote worker	Work performed for an overseas company	Use the current qualifying linked family category where available	Use the current qualifying linked family or student category	No automatic Indonesian employment right; the spouse needs a suitable basis for their own activity	Overseas-employer evidence and the exact permitted activity must remain accurate	Indonesia e-Visa - current visa index Checked 11 September 2026
E31 family categories	Spouse or child joining a qualifying stay-permit holder	E31B covers a qualifying spouse relationship	E31E covers a qualifying child relationship	Family residence should not be treated as unrestricted local work	The status remains linked to the principal permit and documented relationship	Indonesian Immigration - visa classification Checked 11 September 2026
E30A school student	Primary or secondary education for the child	Parents need their own lawful status	The studying child uses the education category	The child's status gives neither parent work permission	School sponsorship, enrolment and the child's continuing study support the route	Indonesian Immigration - education visas Checked 11 September 2026

The Philippines

Route	Principal use	Spouse residence	Children	Spouse work	Change risk	Official source
SRRV Classic	Qualifying principal aged 40 or above	Spouse can be included under the published dependant rules	Unmarried children under 21 can be included; extra-dependant deposits may apply	Do not assume; confirm immigration and labour permission for the exact activity	Deposit, age, pension and programme compliance remain material	Philippine Retirement Authority - SRRV Checked 11 September 2026
13(a) marriage visa	Qualifying foreign spouse of a Filipino citizen	The foreign spouse is the principal applicant	Children require their own correct status	Confirm any Alien Employment Permit or exemption with BI and DOLE before work	Marriage validity, reciprocity and continuing immigration requirements matter	Philippine Bureau of Immigration - 13(a) Checked 11 September 2026
9(g) employment route	Employer-sponsored local employment	Qualifying dependants may use linked status	Qualifying dependants may use linked status	A separate job and its immigration/labour permissions are required	Employer and employment ending can affect the principal and linked family	Philippine Bureau of Immigration - pre-arranged employment Checked 11 September 2026

Methodology and limitations

01 Named routes

Official codes and programme names are used instead of broad marketing labels.

02 Separate activities

Local employment, overseas remote work, investment, study and family sponsorship are not treated as interchangeable.

03 Separate people

The principal, spouse and children each receive their own residence, work or study question.

04 Cautious language

An uncertain or route-specific rule remains conditional; it is not turned into a yes/no promise.

05 Change risk

Employment loss, age limits, sponsor changes, capital requirements and expiry remain part of the comparison.

06 Event-led review

A material official announcement triggers review before the next scheduled quarterly edition where practical.

Outside this matrix

Nationality-specific evidence, consular practice, professional licensing, employer eligibility, payroll, social security, tax, custody, adoption, processing time and approval probability require separate current checks.

Always open the official source and confirm the live rule before applying, paying, working or making a non-refundable school or housing commitment.