

Caribbean Move Timeline Checklist (USA)

A twelve-month sequencing checklist. Start the slowest items first — police checks, apostilles and vital records cause most delays.

Months 1-2 · Decide and order records

- ☐ Confirm the route you qualify for and the authority that decides it.
- ☐ Order certified long-form birth certificates for every applicant.
- ☐ Order marriage, divorce or death certificates where names or status changed.
- ☐ Submit the FBI Identity History Summary request (and state check if required).
- ☐ Renew any passport with less than a year of validity left.

Months 3-4 · Certify and assemble

- ☐ Apostille each state document through the issuing state's Secretary of State.
- ☐ Apostille federal documents through the US Department of State.
- ☐ Arrange certified translations and have those apostilled or certified too.
- ☐ Collect bank statements, pay evidence, pension or investment statements.
- ☐ Obtain employer letters, contracts or business documentation.
- ☐ Complete medicals and required tests within the destination's validity window.

Months 4-5 · Submit

- ☐ Check every form is signed, dated and notarised where required.
- ☐ Confirm no document will expire before the expected decision date.
- ☐ Submit through the official authority or licensed agent and keep proof of submission.
- ☐ Diarise the published processing range and the follow-up date.

Months 5-9 · While processing

- ☐ Respond to any request for further information within days, not weeks.
- ☐ Attend interview or biometrics appointments.
- ☐ Open or begin the local bank account process — expect extra checks on US persons.
- ☐ Secure housing, schooling and health cover.
- ☐ Get shipping quotes and book a container slot.

Months 9-12 · Move

- ☐ Collect the approval, permit or certificate and check every detail for errors.
- ☐ Book flights and arrange pet transport within the permit's timing window.
- ☐ Ship household goods and keep originals in hand luggage.
- ☐ Register locally on arrival: immigration, tax, driving licence, utilities.
- ☐ Set a reminder for the first renewal well ahead of the expiry date.

Important note

Island Legacy Consultancy provides consultancy and preparation support only. We do not guarantee visa, residency or citizenship approval, and this checklist is general information rather than regulated immigration or legal advice. Requirements, costs and timelines change by country — always confirm current rules with the relevant authority or a regulated adviser.