

# Surrendering Residency

By & Copyright of Steve Robinson

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

If you're reading this document, then you have probably made the decision that living in Portugal is not for you or that compelling reasons mean you need to move on for whatever reasons.

There are obviously a number of variables to each situation but hopefully this piece will at least give you guidance on the basics.

To surrender residency, you first need to settle all debts in Portugal & if retaining property in Portugal inform the relevant utility departments of your new contact details in whatever country you are moving to.

Assuming you do not have Portuguese citizenship (as opposed to residency) then you need to inform SEF that you are surrendering residency & I suggest you do this by both email & registered mail & keep proof of both & if you can get an appointment with SEF before you leave then take 2 copies of your letter to SEF where they will retain one copy & stamp the other copy & return it to you & I suggest you also keep a scanned copy of that stamped copy.

If you do have Portuguese citizenship then you do the same thing but inform your local Conservatoria or Loja do Cidadao instead of SEF.

You will also need to inform the Financas/Tax dept of the same thing & by the same method & remember that the NIF (Tax) number is for life & cannot be surrendered which means you need to sign into your personal page of the tax website & register for online notifications or alternatively nominate someone to act as your Fiscal Representative & bear in mind that if you fail to inform both SEF & Financas that you are surrendering residency & then fail to make your annual tax return then you may at some point be at least fined a significant amount for failing to make that tax return.

Whilst on the subject of tax you also need to be aware that if you had the non habitual residency tax exemption concession that you will lose it when you surrender residency & once lost, it cannot be reclaimed later unless you have been a non resident for 5 or more years.

If you have a Portuguese driving licence then you will need to exchange that for the national licence of whatever country you are moving to as you are only entitled to a Portuguese driving licence if you are a resident of Portugal.

If you are sending household goods to your new country of residence & if that country is outside of the Customs Union then you will need to check the import requirements of that country.

Also remember that if you imported a motor vehicle under the new immigrant tax free import concession & are not beyond the 12 month retention period then you will be required to repay the matriculation fee you had previously avoided & that can be a VERY EXPENSIVE process.

Good luck in your new country of residence & safari njema/travel safely.