

### *Special solutions for foreigners*

- Extension, by operation of law, of the period of validity of residence cards

The new regulations, by operation of law, provide for the extension of the period of validity of residence cards if their validity expires within the periods of the state of epidemic threat or state of epidemic. Then the period of legal stay in Poland will be extended, by operation of law, until the end of the 30th day following the date of cancellation of one of the states that was in force that time.

- Extension of the legal stay of a foreigner staying in Poland on the basis of a short-term residence permits

The 'special law' (nicknamed Polish: specustawa) has introduced, by operation of law, the basis of the legal stay of foreigners who on March 14, 2020 (on the day when the first time the state of epidemic threat was announced in the wake of the epidemic of SARS-CoV-2 virus) entered Poland on visa-free regime or on the basis of:

- Schengen visa issued by Polish authorities,
- Schengen visa issued by authorities of another country of the Schengen area,
- long-term visa issued by authorities of another country of the Schengen area,
- residence document issued by authorities of another country of the Schengen area,
- long-term visa issued by another Member State of the European Union that is not a Schengen state, if, in accordance with the provisions of the European Union law, it entitles to stay on its territory (this applies to cases when a foreigner uses certain forms of so-called Intra-EU mobility),
- residence permit issued by another Member State of the European Union that is not a Schengen State, if, in accordance with the provisions of the European Union law, it entitles to stay on its territory (this applies to cases when a foreigner uses certain forms of so-called Intra-EU mobility).

A stay considered as legal is a specific form of stay only on the territory of the Republic of Poland. It is not tantamount to the extension of any of the above-mentioned visas or documents or of the extension of stay under visa-free regime.

The period of stay considered as legal starts on the following day of the last day of legal stay on the basis of visas, residence permits or visa-free regime and lasts until the end of the 30th day following the date of cancellation of one state of epidemic threat or state of epidemic that was in force that time. The possibility of exercising this right depends on the foreigner's stay in the territory of the Republic of Poland. Leaving this territory will cause that the foreigner will not be able to invoke this right while re-entering the territory of the Republic of Poland.