Family, schooling and the texture of life

Dr Alexander Ressos, TEP
Attorney-at-Law (Switzerland and Germany),
Solicitor (England & Wales and Hong Kong)
Of Counsel, KGP Legal LLC
alexander.ressos@kgplegal.com.sg
www.ressos.com.sg

Tax and permits decide whether a move is possible. Family decides whether it lasts. Both hubs have excellent international schools with waiting lists, both are expensive and both offer a quality of public administration that founders from larger countries find unfamiliar. The differences that clients report after a year are these. Zug is small, Zürich is twenty-five minutes away and the Alps are an hour away. The working day overlaps with Europe and the American morning but not with Asia. Singapore is a city-state of six million with a working day that overlaps Asia and the European morning but not the American market hours, a tropical climate and travel times of five to eight hours to the main Asian centres. A founder whose investors and exchange partners sit in Asia will find Singapore the natural base, and vice versa.

A point that is often missed concerns the spouse. In Switzerland, the lump-sum regime requires both spouses to satisfy the conditions, so a spouse who takes a job in Zürich forfeits the regime for the couple.[1] In Singapore, a dependant's pass holder may work only with a separate letter of consent or their own pass, so a spouse with a career needs to be planned for. Divorce in either country reaches the token position.

© 2026 Dr Alexander Ressos. General information only, not legal, tax or investment advice. No client relationship is created. All Singapore law advice is provided by a duly licensed and regulated firm of Singapore advocates and solicitors only on the basis of an express written letter of engagement. More information at SingaporeIQ.com and ressos.com.sg.

Swiss participation in acquired property treats gains accrued during the marriage as divisible, while Singapore's Women's Charter gives the court a wide discretion over matrimonial assets. Chapter VIII returns to marital agreements.

Notes

1. DFTA, SR 642.11, Art. 14 para. 2; FTA Circular No. 44 of 24 July 2018, section 2.4. ↩

Disclaimer

This article is provided for general information only. It is based on publicly available sources as at its date of publication. These sources have not been independently verified against licences, regulatory registers or the records of the entities concerned. It is not legal, tax, financial or investment advice. Nor is it a recommendation to invest in, transact with or use the services of any entity mentioned. Law and regulation change frequently, so the content may be incomplete or outdated. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Dr Alexander Ressos and the publisher of SingaporeIQ exclude all liability for loss or damage arising from the use of or reliance on this article. Readers should obtain advice on their specific circumstances before acting or refraining from action.

Names and trademarks of the entities discussed belong to their owners and are used for identification only. Their mention implies no endorsement, affiliation or allegation of wrongdoing. All Singapore law advice is provided by a duly licensed and regulated firm of Singapore advocates and solicitors only on the basis of an express written letter of engagement. Corrections and updates: contact@ressos.com.

© 2026 Dr Alexander Ressos. This article may be quoted with attribution to SingaporeIQ (SingaporeIQ.com). Reproduction in full and any commercial use require prior written consent. The Legal Terms at https://singaporeiq.com/legal-terms apply.

Author contact: Dr Alexander Ressos, TEP · contact@ressos.com