

GUIDE FOR CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT APPLICATION

CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT

The Belizean Nationality Act 1981 and its subsequent Amendment Act No. 15 of 1985 govern citizenship by Descent. Citizenship by Descent has both pre-independence and post independence provisions and these can be located in Sections 4 and 5 of the Act.

PRE-INDEPENDENCE

PARENTS: (SECTION 4(3)): Any child born outside of Belize before 21st September 1981 of Belizean Parentage (either father or mother) may claim citizenship under Section 4(3) of the Belize Nationality Act 1981.

GRANDPARENTS: (SECTION 4(4)): Any child born outside of Belize before 21st September 1981 and either his father or mother's parent was Belizean at the time of his birth, may claim Citizenship through the Belizean grandparent under Section 4(4).

HUSBAND: (SECTION 4(5)): Any non-Belizean woman who was married before 21st September 1981 to a Belizean man may claim through her husband under Section 4(5).

POST INDEPENDENCE

PARENTS: (SECTION 5(2)): Any child born on or after 21st September 1981 outside of Belize of Belizean Parentage (either father or mother) may claim citizenship through their parent under Section 5(2).

PROCEDURE

1. Applications for Citizenship by descent must be made in the prescribed form by the applicant or in the case of minors (under 18) by their parent (Section 27(2)). Counter clerks are to ensure that the appropriate form is complete and submitted on file.
2. Originals and copies of the relevant documents certified by the competent authorities must accompany all applications. These should be submitted together with copies, which the Immigration and Nationality Department will retain for records.
3. Documents which are not in English, our Official Language, and/or not easily read/understood should be translated and bear the name, address and occupation of the translator.
4. Some documents may require authentication by the relevant Embassy/Consulate in Belize if there is any doubt as to their authenticity.

7. **Payments should be made and receipt issued prior to approval only in straightforward cases (where all is in order).**
8. **A Renunciation of Guatemalan Citizenship form must be completed personally by applicants born in Guatemala and must bear the required Justice of the Peace signature and \$1.50 stamps. Parents may complete this form on behalf of minors. Guatemalan applicants are also required to make a declaration regarding the possession of a Guatemalan passport.**
9. **Properly completed applications will be processed and certificate available for delivery upon payment of a processing fee of forty dollars (\$40.00) within eight weeks.**
10. **Applicants should be given a receipt for any original documents submitted and retained by the Department.**
11. **Official documents are rendered invalid if they contain ERASURES/ALTERATIONS/SUPERIMPOSITIONS.**
12. **Receipt signed by person submitting the application form**

Forms used by the Nationality Section

N1 – Any adult applicant applying for descent except Guatemalans

N2 – Guatemalan Adult

N3 – Any minor child applying for descent except Guatemalans (Belizean parent must sign on their behalf)

N4 – Guatemalans Minors (Belizean parent to sign on their behalf)