



Citizenship Webinar,

1st April 2021

Doras

- Established in the year 2000 to provide support to asylum seekers living in Direct Provision in the region. Our offices are located in Limerick.
- Our **vision** is a society where equality and respect for the human rights of all people are realised.
- Our **mission** is to achieve this through personal and collaborative advocacy; the law; intercultural dialogue; support, inclusion and empowerment; working at the local, national and international levels.

Applying for Citizenship

- Who can apply?
- How to apply?
- Supporting documentation?
- Reasons for refusal?
- What to do if granted?
- Covid-19 updates
- Doras Contact Information

1. Who Can Apply

You can become an Irish citizen by naturalisation if you meet certain criteria:

- Applicant must fulfil the reckonable residence requirements. Either have a stamp 1, stamp 3, or stamp 4 for the correct number of years. Students visas and visitors do not accrue reckonable residence.

- Anyone who has been granted Refugee status or Subsidiary Protection.
- Applicant must be living in the state and registered with GNIB (INIS) for five years.
Only refugees and those married to Irish nationals may apply after 3 years
- Must have continuous residence (no break in immigration permission) for the immediate year before the application is made.
- The applicant must satisfy the Minister that they are of good character.
- The applicant must satisfy the Minister that they intend to live in Ireland after naturalisation.

There is no timeframe in which you have to submit an application - no deadline.

Will not be penalised for waiting extra time.

Right to automatic citizenship for children born in the state:

- Children born to Irish or British parents are automatically Irish citizens.
- Children born to non-EEA parents are only entitled to automatic citizenship if the parents have stamp 4 for three years prior to the child's birth.
- All other children are not entitled and can only apply AFTER their parents have obtained Irish citizenship.

There are different four different forms on the Immigration Service Delivery website:

- Form 8: for all applicants aged 18 and over
- Form 9: for a minor child of a naturalised citizen (e-form)
- Form 10: for a minor child of Irish descent or Irish associations (e-form)
- Form 11: for a minor child born in the state without entitlement to citizenship (e-form)

2. How to Apply?

- There is an application fee of €175 for all applications
- This must be paid by BANK DRAFT ONLY
- Application forms and all supporting documentation should be sent to:

Irish Citizenship Unit, Rosanna Road, Tipperary Town, County Tipperary

3. Supporting documentation?

- **Original of your current passport/ TD** and any previous passports valid during periods of residence in the State, together with a photocopy of the biometric page of each passport (the passport/TD will be returned).

*Refugees and those with Subsidiary Protection must submit an affidavit stating why they do not and cannot obtain a national passport.

- **A certified copy of your birth certificate**, and a copy of a translation into English if relevant.

***Birth Affidavits can be submitted if no birth certificate available**

- **2 recent colour photographs** (no more than 30 days old) signed and dated on the back by the witness who signs the Statutory Declaration;
- **Copy of current Irish Residence Permit** (formerly known as GNIB – Garda National Immigration Bureau – card);
- **Three different proofs of residence** for each year of residence claimed, showing your name and address and date of issue, e.g. mortgage/rent agreement, household bills (gas, electricity, phone or cable/satellite TV), bank statements, revenue letters, social welfare, letter from employment, etc.
- **Letter from current employer** showing dates of starting employment; **copies of 3 recent pay slips** (no older than 6 months); and **copies of your P60 or tax statement** from the Revenue Commissioners for each year of residence;
- **If on social welfare payment** now or in past 3 years- letter from local Intreo office outlining payments
- **Copies of bank statements** for all of your bank accounts for at least 3 of the previous 6 months;
- **Evidence of marriage if relevant** (*Certified copies of marriage certificate);
- Copy of your **completed Online Residency Checker**
- **Copy of Public Services Card (PSC)**, issued when registering with the Department of Social Protection.
- **Copy of E-tax clearance certificate**

Certified copy = Take original document or certificate to a solicitor. They will make a copy of the document and sign/ stamp it for you.

4. Reasons for refusal?

- **Absences from the state** which are **longer than 6 weeks**
- **Criminal convictions**
 - ALL convictions must be disclosed in an application.
- **Gaps in residence**
 - In the year immediately before the application there cannot be any gap in registration for IRP card.
- **Incomplete/ incorrectly filled in forms**
 - Forms with numerous mistakes or incorrectly filled statutory declaration pages may be refused.

5. What to do if granted?

- You will need to submit the appropriate fee and send your current IRP card.
 - €950 – Adult
 - €200 – Minor
 - €200 – Widow, Widower or Surviving Civil Partner of Irish citizen
 - €0 – Recognised refugee or stateless person
- **You will then be invited to a citizenship ceremony where you will receive your naturalisation certificate. (Ceremonies currently postponed due to Covid-19)**
- **After receiving your naturalisation certificate, you may apply for an Irish passport.**

6. Covid-19 Updates

- Currently a very large backlog of cases = over 20,000 pending.
- Department is asking people not to submit applications if they need to travel in the near future or need original documents quickly returned.
- Wait time for acknowledgement and return of documents is at least 8 weeks.

“Should you require your passport for emergency reasons such as medical reasons, you should email us setting out the reasons and provide colour scanned copies of the supporting documentation such as a letter from your medical consultant. This service is solely for the purposes of emergency travel.”

- Temporary system of Statutory declarations instead of citizenship ceremonies if granted.
- Those who are granted Citizenship in the coming weeks will be emailed with instructions.
- System of online payment now active to pay the fee

7. Contact

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