



Home Office

GUIDE UKF

Registration as a British citizen

Persons born before 1 July 2006 to British fathers and whose parents were not married

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Introduction

Becoming a British citizen is a significant life event. It allows you to apply for a British citizen passport and gives you the opportunity to participate more fully in the life of your local community.

This guide is for adults (18 or over) or parents/guardians completing the form on behalf of a child under 18. References to 'you' refer to the applicant, unless otherwise stated.

You will need to show that you satisfy a number of requirements set out in British nationality law. This guide aims to help you to make a successful application. It will also help you to prepare for British citizenship. It tells you what information to put into each section of the application form and which documents you need to supply.

Before continuing with your application, you should be aware that under the nationality laws of some countries a person will automatically lose their nationality if they become a citizen of another country. If you have any questions about this, you should ask the authorities of the country of which you are a citizen through their Embassy or High Commission before making your application. If the country of which you are currently a citizen continues to recognise you as one of its citizens, you may continue to be subject to the duties of citizens of that country when you are in its territory. This may include obligations to undergo military service.

The law covering registration is contained in the British Nationality Act 1981 and the regulations made under it. This guide is intended to help you to apply. It is not a complete statement of the law or policy. Other information about citizenship and immigration is available on our [website](#).

For the purposes of this guide;

United Kingdom means:

- England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man; and
- the Republic of Ireland at a time when it formed part of the United Kingdom (that is to say, before 31 March 1922); and
- (in relation to birth) a ship or aircraft registered in the United Kingdom or an unregistered ship or aircraft of the Government of the United Kingdom.

Natural father means a man who is your biological parent.

OISC and Immigration Advice

You may, if you wish, use the services of an agent such as a solicitor or other competent adviser to help you with your application.

Immigration or nationality advisers acting in the course of business (whether paid or unpaid) are regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC), an independent body. The provision of such advice is prohibited unless a person works for an organisation registered with, or exempted by, the OISC or is authorised to practise (like solicitors and barristers) by a designated professional body. Certain categories (for example public health bodies) are exempted from the regulatory scheme by Ministerial Order. It is a criminal offence to provide advice or services in contravention of the regulatory scheme. Further information about the regulatory scheme and a full list of OISC regulated advisers is available on its website at www.oisc.gov.uk.

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The requirements you have to meet

You will be entitled to registration if you meet all the requirements below:

- you were born before 1 July 2006
- you would have become a British citizen automatically if your mother had been married to your natural (biological) father
- you have never been a British citizen

The law has been written in this way to ensure that those who would have become British citizens automatically before 1 July 2006, if their parents had been married, now have an opportunity to become British citizens by registration.

There is no registration option for people who would have become British Overseas citizens or British Dependent Territories citizens on 1 January 1983 had their parents been married and who, as a result, might now have had entitlements to British citizenship under other provisions.

You can meet the second requirement above if:

- You were born on or after 1 January 1983 and would have become a British citizen automatically had your parents been married at the time of your birth (section 4G of the British Nationality Act 1981), or
- You were born before 1 January 1983 and were a citizen of the UK and Colonies (CUKC) on 31 December 1982 and would have become a British citizen automatically had your parents been married at the time of your birth (section 4H of the British Nationality Act 1981).
- You were born before 1 January 1983 and would have become a British citizen on 1 January 1983 had your parents been married because:
 - You were a British subject before 1 January 1949, and would have automatically become a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies on that date had your parents been married at the time of your birth, or
 - You became a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies on or after 1 January 1949 and lost that status on the independence of a Commonwealth country, but would not have done had your parents been married at the time of your birth, or
 - You never acquired British subject or CUKC status but would have automatically done so had your parents been married at the time of your birth (Section 4I of the British Nationality Act 1981).

To apply under these provisions, you will need to prove your relationship with your natural father. To do this you will have to provide evidence of paternity.

If you can provide genuine and reliable documents, we will recognise a man as your father in the following circumstances:

- He is named as your father on a birth certificate issued within one year of your birth, or
- A DNA test report shows he is your father, or
- A court has ruled that he is your father, or
- You can provide other evidence that is sufficient to establish paternity.

If your parents married after your birth you may already be a British citizen. This will depend on which country's laws applied to your father at the time of the marriage. Some countries' laws – including the UK - state that where a child's parents marry after the child's birth, the child will be treated as if the parents had been married at the time of the birth. If your parents married after your birth you may wish to seek the advice of an [immigration adviser](#).

Biometric Enrolment

As part of your application, all applicants are required to enrol their biometric details for the purpose of identity verification.

Children under 18 applying for registration as a British citizen must also enrol their biometric details. Children under the age of 6 do not need to provide fingerprints but must have a digital photograph taken of their face.

Up to the age of 6 the Home Office only requires a digitised image of the child's face, although the regulation does not prevent fingerprints being recorded from children aged less than 6 years. There is no upper age limit for biometric information to be taken.

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at their biometric enrolment appointment.

Where you give your biometric information depends on how you're making your visa or immigration application. You'll be told where to go after you've applied.

Your application may be rejected as invalid if you do not enrol your biometrics when requested. For more information about enrolling biometrics and the current fee, please visit the following section of our website:

<http://www.gov.uk/biometricresidence-permits>.

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Documents

This section tells you the sort of documents you will need to provide to consider your application. We cannot consider your application unless we have supporting documents. If you do not submit your application with supporting documents and the application will be returned to you unprocessed.

Documentary evidence that (had the law been different) you would have become a British citizen

You will need to provide the following documents:

- Your passport
- Your full birth certificate and either:
 - Your father's full birth certificate, or
 - Your father's certificate of naturalisation or registration as a British citizen or as a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies (or, before 1 January 1949, as a British subject), or
 - Papers showing your father's legal adoption, or
 - Your father's citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies or British citizen passport showing he had that status before you were born, or
 - Evidence that he was settled in the UK at the time of your birth, if you were born in the UK on or after 1 January 1983.

Proof of Paternity

If your natural father was named as your father on a birth certificate issued within 12 months of your birth and you were born before 10 September 2015, this will be acceptable evidence of paternity. If not, you must provide other evidence. This could include:

- DNA test reports. We will accept test results from a company that is on the [government's accredited list](#), or
- a court order, or
- other evidence that proves you are related as claimed.

Please provide any translations if these are applicable.

If the person applying is under 18, the consent of all those with parental responsibility should be provided.

The citizenship you will acquire

If you would have become a British citizen by descent had your parents been married, you will be a British citizen by descent after registration under this provision. British citizens by descent cannot normally pass on British citizenship to any children born outside British territory.

If you are resident in the United Kingdom, and 18 or over, you may therefore wish to consider applying for naturalisation, as that would give British citizenship otherwise than by descent which would allow you to be able to pass on that citizenship to any children born abroad to you in the future.

Further information about the requirements for citizenship can be obtained on [Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Citizenship ceremonies

If your application is successful and you are living in the UK, you will be invited to attend a citizenship ceremony. You will receive an invitation from the Home Office and this will confirm the local authority you should contact to arrange your ceremony. We expect you to arrange to attend a ceremony within 3 months of receiving your invitation otherwise it will expire and you will have to reapply for registration and pay a further processing fee.

If you are living abroad, your citizenship ceremony will take place at the embassy or consulate in the country you are living in.

If you do not attend the ceremony within 3 months without good reason, your application for citizenship will be refused.

At the ceremony, you will be asked to affirm or swear an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and to pledge your loyalty to the UK. Following this you will be presented with your certificate of registration as a British citizen. Making the Oath (or Affirmation) and Pledge at a citizenship ceremony is a legal requirement, and the point at which you will become a British citizen.

Successful applicants are rarely exempt from ceremonies and then only if they are physically unable to attend or if their mental state would make it inappropriate to attend. If you wish to be exempt you should say why and provide supporting evidence.

Deprivation

You may be deprived of your British citizenship if it is found to have been obtained by fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact. The Home Secretary may also deprive you of British citizenship if they are satisfied that deprivation is conducive to the public good and you would not be made stateless. Following the Immigration Act 2014, the Home Secretary may also deprive naturalised persons of their British citizenship if the person has conducted themselves in a manner which is seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of the United Kingdom and the Home Secretary has reasonable grounds for believing the person is able, under the law of another country to become a national of that country or territory.

A registration may, as a matter of law, be ineffective from the outset if it is obtained by means of impersonation.

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