

## **APPLYING FOR IRISH CITIZENSHIP BY NATURALISATION**

Naturalisation is a process whereby a non-national can apply to become an Irish citizen. An application for a certificate of naturalisation will be considered under the provisions of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act, 1956, as amended. The Act provides that the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform may, in his absolute discretion, grant an application for a certificate of naturalisation provided certain statutory conditions are fulfilled. The granting of Irish Citizenship through naturalisation is a privilege and an honour and not an entitlement.

### **General Requirements**

You may be eligible for the grant of a certificate of naturalisation if you

- are of full age (18 years or older)
- are of good character
- have had a period of one year's continuous residency in the State immediately before the date of the application and, during the eight years immediately preceding that period, have had a total residence in the State amounting to four years
- intend in good faith to continue to reside in the State after naturalisation

### **Residency Requirements**

Permission to remain in the State as confirmed by the Gárda National Immigration Bureau is a matter of vital importance to all applicants for Citizenship. Applicants must ensure that their registration with the Gárda National Immigration Bureau, 13/14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, is kept up to date during their residency in this country.

Part of the procedure employed to determine an applicants residency, in the processing of Citizenship applications, is a thorough examination of GNIB residency stamps.

Work permits, letters from employers, or other Departmental letters are not in themselves evidence of having remained in the State.

In the context of naturalisation, certain periods of residence in the State are excluded.

These include -

- periods of residence in respect of which an applicant does not have permission to remain in the State
- periods granted for the purposes of study
- periods granted for the purposes of seeking recognition as a refugee within the meaning of the Refugee Act, 1996.

## **FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION FORM**

### **Section 1: Name**

- 1.1 Write your current given name/names
- 1.2 Write your current family name
- 1.3 If you have ever used another name, write it here
- 1.4 Please give the reason for name change e.g. marriage, deed poll
- 1.5 Please give the date your name changed

### **Section 2: Identification**

- 2.1 Write your birthplace as recorded on your Birth Certificate
- 2.2 Write your Country of birth as recorded on your Birth Certificate
- 2.3 Write your Date of birth as recorded on your Birth Certificate
- 2.4 Tick the box that shows your correct gender
- 2.5 Write your present Nationality
- 2.6 Write your PPS Number
- 2.7 Write your GNIB Number (This is found on your GNIB card)
- 2.8 Write your Immigration Reference Number (This is the 69/./../ on your GNIB Card)

### **Section 3: Residential Address**

- 3.1 Write your current address
- 3.2 Write your e-mail address if you have one.
- 3.3 Write your day-time telephone number. (This is the number at which you can be reached during normal business hours i.e. 9.00am to 5.00pm)
- 3.4 Write your evening telephone number if you have one.
- 3.5 Write your mobile telephone number if you have one.

### **Section 4: Previous Addresses**

Please list all your addresses for the last 9 years if a standard application or 5 years if married to an Irish Spouse. Include Irish and overseas addresses.

### **Section 5: Residency Details**

- 5.1 Write the date when you first arrived in Ireland
- 5.2 Write your Passport Number at the time of arrival in Ireland
- 5.3 Tick the appropriate box
- 5.4 Tick the appropriate box
- 5.5 Tick the appropriate box
- 5.6 Please give details of any period spent studying in Ireland for the last 9 years
- 5.7 Tick the appropriate box
- 5.8 Please give details of any period spent in the asylum process for the last 9 years

### **Section 6: Intention**

Please note that it is a statutory requirement for naturalisation that you intend in good faith to continue to reside in the State after naturalisation.

## **Section 7: Marital Status**

- 7.1 Tick the appropriate box
- 7.2 Write the Full name of your spouse
- 7.3 Write the Date of your spouses birth
- 7.4 Write the Birthplace and Country of birth of your spouse
- 7.5 Write your Spouses current nationality
- 7.6 Write your Spouses current address
- 7.7 Write your civil status at the time of marriage (e.g. single, widowed, divorced)
- 7.8 Write your spouses civil status at the time of marriage

## **Section 8: Previous Marriages**

- 8.1 Please give the total number of previous marriages for you or your spouse
- 8.2 Write the date of any Divorce granted to you or your spouse
- 8.3 Write the country in which the divorce was granted

## **Section 9: Parents Details**

- 9.1 Write the full name of your father and mother
- 9.2 Write your parents date of birth
- 9.3 Write your parents place and country of birth
- 9.4 Write your parents nationality

## **Section 10: Means of Support**

- 10.1 Tick the appropriate box
- 10.2 Write the Name and Address of your employer if you are in employment
- 10.3 Write the address used for business if appropriate

## **Section 11: Previous Applications**

- 11.1 Tick the appropriate box
- 11.2 Write the date of your previous application
- 11.3 Write your previous application number 68/.../...

## **Section 12: Background**

- 12.1 Tick the appropriate box
- 12.2 Tick the appropriate box
- 12.3 Write the date of conviction or offence if appropriate
- 12.4 Write the place where the conviction/offence occurred if appropriate
- 12.5 Write the outcome where appropriate
- 12.6 Tick the appropriate box

## **Section 13: Irish Associations**

If you are applying for naturalisation on the basis of descent or Irish associations please give details here.

## **Section 14: References**

This section should be completed by three Irish Citizens who are not related to you or act as a solicitor/agent for you.

## **Section 15: Applications based on Marriage to Irish Citizens**

This section should be completed by applicants applying on the basis of their marriage to an Irish citizen. A sworn declaration witnessed by an authorised person (e.g. Solicitor, Peace Commissioner, Notary public, Commissioner for oaths) must also be completed by your spouse.

## **Statutory Declaration**

A statutory declaration is a written statement, declared to be true by you in the presence of an authorised person. By signing this declaration you are stating that you understand the application form and that the facts provided in the application form are true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

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## **How is my application Dealt with after submission?**

- Upon receipt, an initial examination of each application is carried out to determine if the application form has been completed fully.
- Incomplete application forms are returned to the applicant for amendment.
- Valid applications are then examined to determine if the applicant meets the statutory residency criteria set out in the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act, 1956, as amended.
- Applicants are informed of any shortfall in their residency, within a matter of weeks from the date the application is received, and will be able to re-apply when they have the required residency.
- Further processing takes place at a later stage and involves assessing an applicant's financial status in respect of their ability to support themselves in the State. Enquiries with the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social and Family Affairs may be necessary in this regard. At the same time enquiries are also made with the Garda Síochána to clarify if the applicant can be deemed to be of good character.
- Once all enquiries are completed, the file is referred to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform for a decision

## **Completing the Naturalisation Process**

If the Minister approves your application a letter will issue to you containing instructions regarding final procedures that must be completed prior to the issue of a certificate of naturalisation. These include swearing an oath of fidelity to the nation and loyalty to the state and payment of the appropriate fee below:

Applications from Refugees: Nil  
Applications from Minors/Widows: €200.00  
All other applicants: €50.00