

Bulgarian Citizenship Act

Promulgated, Stdte Gazette No. 136/18.11.1998, effective 19.02.1999, amended and supplemented, SG No. 41/24.04.2001, supplemented, SG No. 54/31.05.2002, effective 1.12.2002, amended and supplemented, SG No. 52/29.06.2007, supplemented, SG No 109/20.12.2007, effective 1.01.2008, amended, SG No. 74/15.09.2009, effective 15.09.2009, SG No. 82/16.10.2009, amended and supplemented, SG No 33/30.04.2010, supplemented, SG No. 11/7.02.2012, SG No. 21/13.03.2012, amended and supplemented, SG No. 16/19.02.2013, amended, SG No. 66/26.07.2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 68/2.08.2013, effective 2.08.2013, amended and supplemented, SG No. 108/17.12.2013, amended, SG No. 98/28.11.2014, effective 28.11.2014, SG No. 14/20.02.2015, SG No. 22/24.03.2015, effective 24.03.2015, amended and supplemented, SG No. 103/27.12.2016, supplemented, SG No. 77/18.09.2018 effective 1.01.2019, amended and supplemented, SG No. 21/12.03.2021, amended, SG No. 22/18.03.2022, effective 18.03.2022, SG No. 26/1.04.2022

Text in Bulgarian: Закон за българското гражданство

Chapter One GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Act establishes the terms and procedure for the acquisition, loss and resumption of Bulgarian citizenship.

Article 2

Bulgarian citizenship shall be regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria, by this Act and by the international treaties which are in force upon occurrence of the facts or events associated with citizenship.

Article 3

Any Bulgarian citizen, who is a citizen of another State as well, shall be deemed to be only a Bulgarian citizen upon application of Bulgarian legislation, unless otherwise provided for by a law.

Article 4

Citizenship may not be established by judicial process.

Article 5

Contraction or dissolution of a marriage between a Bulgarian citizen and a foreign citizen, or change of the citizenship of any of the spouses during the marriage, shall not change by right the citizenship of the other spouse.

Article 6

Adoption shall not affect the citizenship of the adoptee.

Article 7

(1) No one may be deprived of Bulgarian citizenship except in the cases expressly provided for in this Act.

(2) Everyone shall have the right to a choice of citizenship.

Chapter Two ACQUISITION OF BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP

Section I Acquisition of Bulgarian Citizenship by Descent

Article 8

Any person, whereof at least one of the parents is a Bulgarian citizen, shall be a Bulgarian citizen by descent.

Article 9

Any person, who has been filiated by a Bulgarian citizen or whose descent from a Bulgarian citizen has been established by a judgment of court, shall likewise be a Bulgarian citizen by descent.

Section II Acquisition of Bulgarian Citizenship by Birth

Article 10

Any person, born within the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, shall be a Bulgarian citizen unless acquiring another citizenship by descent.

Article 11

Any infant of unknown parentage, found in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, shall be deemed to have been born within that territory.

Section III Acquisition of Bulgarian Citizenship by Naturalization

Article 12

(1) (Previous Article 12, SG No. 108/2013) Any person, who is not a Bulgarian citizen, may acquire Bulgarian citizenship if, at the date of submission of an application for naturalization, the said person:

1. has attained the age of 18 years;
2. (supplemented, SG No. 21/2012) had been granted a permanent or long-term residence permit for the Republic of Bulgaria not less than five years prior to that date;
3. has not been sentenced by a Bulgarian court for a premeditated publicly indictable offence, and is not subject to criminal proceedings for such an offence, unless the person has been rehabilitated;
4. (amended, SG No. 41/2001) possesses an income or occupation enabling him or her to subsist in the Republic of Bulgaria;
5. (amended and supplemented, SG No. 41/2001, amended, SG No. 74/2009 effective 15.09.2009, SG No. 68/2013, effective 2.08.2013) has a command of the Bulgarian language subject to verification according to a procedure established by an ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science, and
6. (new, SG No. 41/2001) has been released from his or her previous citizenship or will be released therefrom at the time of acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship.

(2) (New, SG No. 108/2013) Release from previous citizenship is not required for:

1. spouses of Bulgarian nationals;
2. nationals of European Union Member States, of countries that are parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area or of the Swiss Confederation.
3. nationals of countries that have signed reciprocal agreements with the Republic of Bulgaria.

Article 12a

(New, SG No. 16/2013, amended, SG No. 108/2013, supplemented, SG No 21/2021, repealed, SG No. 26/2022).□

Article 13

(Amended and supplemented, SG No. 41/2001, supplemented, SG No

21/2012, amended, SG No. 108/2013)▫

Any person, who is not a Bulgarian citizen, who possesses the qualifications referred to in Items 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Article 12 (1) herein, and who had been granted a permanent or long-term residence permit for the Republic of Bulgaria not less than three years prior to the date of submission of the application for naturalization, may acquire Bulgarian citizenship if he or she furthermore satisfies one of the following requirements:

1. has been, and continues to be, legally married to a Bulgarian citizen for not less than three years;
2. (repealed, SG No. 41/2001);
3. has been born in the Republic of Bulgaria;
4. (supplemented, SG No. 21/2012) had been granted the permanent or long-term residence permit before attaining the age of 18 years;
5. (repealed, SG No. 41/2001).

Article 13a

(1) (New, SG No. 41/2001, supplemented, SG No. 54/2002, previous text of Article 13a, SG No. 52/2007, amended, SG No. 108/2013) Any person, who had been granted a refugee status or asylum not less than three years prior to the date of submission of the application for naturalization, may acquire Bulgarian citizenship if he or she possesses the qualifications referred to in Items 1, 3, 4 and 5 of Article 12 (1) herein.

(2) (New, SG No. 52/2007, amended, SG No. 108/2013) Any person, who was granted humanitarian status no less than five years prior to the date of submission of the application for naturalization, may acquire Bulgarian citizenship if he or she possesses the qualifications referred to in Items 1, 3, 4 and 5 of Article 12 (1) herein.

Article 14

(Amended, SG No. 41/2001, supplemented, SG No. 21/2012, amended, SG No. 108/2013)▫

Any stateless person may acquire Bulgarian citizenship if he or she possesses the qualifications referred to in Items 1, 3, 4 and 5 of Article 12 (1) herein and had been granted a permanent or long-term residence permit for the Republic of Bulgaria not less than three years prior to the date of submission of the application for naturalization.

Article 14a

(New, SG No. 16/2013, amended, SG No. 108/2013, SG No. 14/2015, amended and supplemented, SG No. 21/2021, amended, SG No. 22/2022, effective 18.03.2022 repealed, SG No. 26/2022).▫

Article 15

(1) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 41/2001, previous Article 15, SG No. 33/2010, amended, SG No. 108/2013) Any person who is not a Bulgarian citizen may acquire Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization without possessing the qualifications referred to in Items 2, 4, 5 and 6 of Article 12 (1) herein if he or she satisfies one of the following requirements:

1. is of Bulgarian descent;
2. (supplemented, SG No. 41/2001) has been adopted by a Bulgarian citizen under the terms of unrestricted adoption;
3. (new, SG No. 41/2001) one of the parents thereof is a Bulgarian citizen or was a Bulgarian citizen at his or her death.

(2) (New, SG No. 33/2010, amended, SG No. 21/2021) In the proceedings for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization under Paragraph 1, Item 1 along with the application shall be presented official documents, issued by Bulgarian or foreign authorities, with which the applicant shall certify that he/she is related to at least one person - his/her ascending to third degree inclusive, who is of Bulgarian

origin. The documents must contain information about the names of the ascendant and his/her relationship with the applicant.

(3) (New, SG No. 33/2010, repealed, SG No. 21/2021).□

Article 16

Any person who is not a Bulgarian citizen may acquire Bulgarian citizenship without possessing the qualifications covered under Article 12 herein if the naturalization thereof is in the interest of the Republic of Bulgaria or if the person concerned has rendered special services to the Republic of Bulgaria in the social and economic sphere, in the field of science, technology, culture or sports.

Article 17

Children who have not attained the age of 14 years shall acquire Bulgarian citizenship if both parents or the surviving parent thereof only acquire Bulgarian citizenship or if one of the parents thereof does so, in case the other parent is a Bulgarian citizen. Under the same terms, children who have attained the age of 14 years but have not attained the age of 18 years shall acquire Bulgarian citizenship if they so wish.

Article 18

(1) Children who have not attained the age of 14 years, whereof only one of the parents is a Bulgarian citizen, in case they do not hold Bulgarian citizenship, may become Bulgarian citizens without possessing the qualifications covered under Article 12 herein if both parents or the surviving parent thereof consent to this in writing. No consent shall be required from any parent who has been deprived of parental rights. Under the same terms, children who have attained the age of 14 years but have not attained the age of 18 years may acquire Bulgarian citizenship if they so wish.

(2) (Supplemented, SG No. 41/2001) Any persons adopted by Bulgarian citizens under the terms of unrestricted adoption may likewise acquire Bulgarian citizenship under the terms established by Paragraph (1).

Article 19

The application of any person who is qualified to acquire Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization shall be denied if there is good reason to believe that, considering the conduct of the applicant, he or she poses a threat to public order, public morals, public health, or national security.

Chapter Three LOSS OF BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP

Section I Release from Bulgarian Citizenship

Article 20

Any Bulgarian citizen who is permanently resident abroad may request to be released from Bulgarian citizenship if he or she has acquired foreign citizenship or if there is information showing that a procedure for acquisition of foreign citizenship has been initiated.

Article 21

(1) The release of parents from Bulgarian citizenship shall also release from Bulgarian citizenship the children thereof who have not attained the age of 14 years only if a separate application has been made to this effect as well. The release of children who have attained the age of 14 years but have not attained the age of 18 years shall require the consent of the children concerned as well.

(2) Where only one of the parents has submitted an application for release from Bulgarian citizenship, the children may be released under the terms established

by Paragraph (1) solely if the other parent has likewise given the consent thereof. No consent shall be required from a parent who has been deprived of parental rights.

Section II Revocation of Naturalization

Article 22

(1) Naturalization whereby Bulgarian citizenship has been acquired may be revoked if the naturalized person:

1. has invoked any data or facts which have served as grounds for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship, which were established, by judicial process, to have been false, and/or

2. (supplemented, SG No. 16/2013) has withheld any data or facts which, had they been known, would have served as grounds to refuse acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship, and or

3. (new, SG No. 21/2021, amended, SG No. 26/2022) has not notified of a change under Article 32a,

4. (new, SG No. 16/2013, renumbered from Item 3, supplemented, SG No 21/2021, repealed, SG No. 26/2022).□

(2) (Supplemented, SG No. 11/2012, amended, SG No. 103/2016 supplemented, SG No. 21/2021) Naturalization shall be revocable solely prior to the lapse of ten years after acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship, except in the cases where the data and facts referred to in Items 1 and 2 of Paragraph (1) or the amendment of Item 3 concern participation of the person in terrorism, and provided the person does not become stateless.

Article 23

Revocation of the naturalization of one of the spouses shall not revoke the naturalization of the other spouse and of the children, unless they have obtained Bulgarian citizenship on the grounds of the same false or withheld data or facts.

Section III Deprivation of Bulgarian Citizenship

Article 24

Any person who has acquired Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization may be deprived of the said citizenship if sentenced by an enforceable conviction for a serious offence against the Republic, subject to the condition that that the said person is abroad and does not become stateless.

Article 25

Deprivation of citizenship of one of the spouses shall not affect the citizenship of the other spouse and of the children.

Chapter Four RESUMPTION OF BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP

Article 26

(1) The citizenship of any person who has been released from Bulgarian citizenship may be resumed at his or her request if:

1. the said person has not been sentenced by an enforceable conviction for a premeditated offence in the State of residence thereof or in the Republic of Bulgaria, and

2. the said person does not pose a threat to public order, public morals, public health or national security;

3. (new, SG No. 41/2001, supplemented, SG No. 21/2012) the said person had been granted a permanent or long-term residence permit for the Republic of Bulgaria not less than three years prior to the date of submission of the application for resumption.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 41/2001) The citizenship of any person of Bulgarian descent may be resumed under the terms established by Items 1 and 2 of Paragraph (1).

Article 27

The citizenship of any person who has been deprived of Bulgarian citizenship may be resumed if it is established that the deprivation has been unfounded or if the grounds for deprivation have lapsed.

Article 28

(1) Upon resumption of the Bulgarian citizenship of parents, the children thereof who have not attained the age of 14 years shall likewise become Bulgarian citizens. The children who have attained the age of 14 years but have not attained the age of 18 years shall become Bulgarian citizens if they, too, so wish.

(2) Where resumption is requested by one of the parents only, the children may acquire Bulgarian citizenship under the terms established by Paragraph (1) solely if the other parent has likewise given the consent thereof. No consent shall be required from any parent who has been deprived of parental rights.

Chapter Five PROCEEDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH BULGARIAN CITIZENSHIP

Article 29

(Amended, SG No. 33/2010)

(1) Acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization, release from Bulgarian citizenship and resumption of Bulgarian citizenship shall be effected acting on an application of the person concerned, to be submitted in person at the Ministry of Justice or at the diplomatic mission or consular post of the Republic of Bulgaria. The diplomatic mission or consular post of the Republic of Bulgaria shall mandatorily provide reasoned observations regarding the application.

(2) In respect of children who have not attained the age of 14 years, the application shall be submitted by the parents or tutors thereof, and in respect of children who have attained the age of 14 years but have not attained the age of 18 years, the application shall be countersigned by the parents or curators thereof. No consent shall be required from any parent who has been deprived of parental rights.

(3) The applicant shall be interviewed at the time of submitting the documents. In the case of children who have not attained the age of 14 years, the interview shall be held with the parents or tutors thereof. When interviewing children who have attained the age of 14 years but have not attained the age of 18 years, they shall be accompanied by the parents or curators thereof.

(4) (New, SG No. 21/2021) In case it is necessary to clarify facts and circumstances on the documents submitted with the application under Article 15, Paragraph 2, the Minister of Justice may require the applicant to submit additional documents within fourteen days of the notification or to assign to the Consultative Council of the State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad to establish whether the applicant is of Bulgarian origin.

(5) (New, SG No. 21/2021) The proceedings shall be terminated in case the documents under Article 15, Paragraph 2 are not submitted along with the application for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization under Article 15, Paragraph 1, Item 1.

(6) (New, SG No. 21/2021) The Consultative Council shall deliver a reasoned

positive or negative opinion within two months of the award, taking into account whether the applicant uses Bulgarian language, whether he identifies himself as a person of Bulgarian origin, and whether he has at least one of the following circumstances:

1. he/she is part of a Bulgarian community or a Bulgarian minority in another country;
2. he/she originates from a settlement that was part of the Bulgarian state in the past or the Bulgarian Exarchate;
3. he/she has ascendants who are bearers of the Bulgarian traditional family name system.

(7) (New, SG No. 21/2021) The structure, organization and activity of the Consultative Council at the State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad shall be determined by regulations adopted by the Council of Ministers.

Article 30

(1) (Previous text of Article 30, SG No. 21/2021) A motion for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship under Article 16 herein shall be made by the Government Minister responsible for the relevant field in which the naturalization of the person concerned is in the interest of Bulgaria or in which the said person has rendered special services. The person who is to acquire Bulgarian citizenship must have given consent in writing to this in advance.

(2) (New, SG No. 21/2021) The motion under Paragraph 1 shall be motivated and shall indicate the concrete interest of the Republic of Bulgaria from the naturalization of the person or his concrete contribution in the respective field, in which the person has special merits.

Article 31

(1) A motion for revocation of naturalization or for deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship shall be made by the Prosecutor General.

(2) Should the conditions under Article 22 or Article 24 herein apply, the Minister of Justice may independently make a motion for revocation of naturalization or deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship.

Article 32

(1) Any application and any motions referred to in Articles 29, 30 and Article 31 (1) herein shall be addressed to the Minister of Justice.

(2) (Repealed, SG No. 33/2010).□

(3) The application and the documents enclosed therewith must be written in the Bulgarian language.

Article 32a

(New, SG No. 21/2021)

(1) The person under Article 29, Paragraph 1 shall be obliged within one month from the occurrence of the change in the facts and circumstances, which are related to acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization, release from Bulgarian citizenship or resumption of Bulgarian citizenship, to notify the Ministry of Justice and present the documents proving the change.

(2) (Repealed, SG No. 26/2022).□

Article 33

(1) (Amended, SG No. 41/2001, supplemented, SG No. 109/2007, amended SG No. 33/2010, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014, SG No. 21/2021, SG No. 22/2022, effective 18.03.2022) There shall be a Citizenship Council with the Ministry of Justice, consisting of a Chairperson, who shall be a Deputy Minister of Justice, and members who shall represent, one each, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy,

the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Innovation and Growth, State Agency for National Security, State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad and State Agency for Refugees.

(2) A representative of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria may attend the meetings of the Citizenship Council.

(3) (Supplemented, SG No. 109/2007, amended, SG No. 33/2010) The Citizenship Council shall give an opinion on applications and motions in connection with Bulgarian citizenship, following written observations by the Ministry of Interior and by the State Agency for National Security.

(4) (New, SG No. 21/2021, amended, SG No. 26/2022) In case it is necessary to clarify facts and circumstances related to the presented evidence on the applications and motions or to the circumstances under Article 19, the Citizenship Council may require from the applicants to present additional documents or to assign to the representative of the respective institution under paragraph 1 to carry out an inspection. The period for submission of the documents and for carrying out the inspection shall be three months, and in the cases under Article 16 - one month. In this case, the periods under Article 35(1) shall be suspended.

(5) (Renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 21/2021) The Minister of Justice shall designate by name the composition of the Citizenship Council on nominations by the heads of the relevant central-government departments covered under Paragraph (1) and shall issue Rules of Procedure of the said Council.

Article 34

The Minister of Justice, acting on the basis of the opinion of the Citizenship Council, shall make a motion to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria to issue a decree or to refuse to issue a decree on acquisition, resumption, release from, or deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship, as well as on revocation of naturalization.

Article 35

(Amended, SG No. 33/2010)

(1) The Minister of Justice shall make a motion for the issuance of a decree under Article 34 herein within:

1. (amended, SG No. 21/2021) twelve months, regarding applications for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization;

2. (amended, SG No. 21/2021) nine months, regarding applications of persons of Bulgarian descent for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization;

3. six months, regarding applications for resumption of Bulgarian citizenship;

4. six months, regarding applications for release from Bulgarian citizenship;

5. (new, SG No. 16/2013, repealed, SG No. 26/2022);

6. (renumbered from Item 5, SG No. 16/2013) three months, regarding motions for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship under Article 16 herein, as well as for revocation of naturalization or for deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship;

7. (new, SG No. 103/2016) one month, regarding motions for revocation of naturalization and for deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship, the data and facts under Article 22, Paragraph 1, items 1 and 2 refer to the partaking of the person in terrorism, or the enforced conviction is for crimes under Article 108a, Paragraphs 1 - 4, Paragraphs 6 and 7, Article 109, Paragraph 3, Article 110, Paragraph 1, motion six, and under Article 110, Paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code.

(2) The time limits under Paragraph (1) shall run from the receipt of the application or motion at the Ministry of Justice or, respectively, from the date of curing the non-conformities.

(3) The observations of the Ministry of Interior and of the State Agency for National Security shall be received at the Ministry of Justice:

1. (amended, SG No. 21/2021) under Item 1 of Paragraph (1): not later than three months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the Ministry of Interior and, respectively, not later than three months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the State Agency for National Security;

2. (amended, SG No. 21/2021) under Item 2 of Paragraph (1): not later than three months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the Ministry of Interior and, respectively, not later than three months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the State Agency for National Security;

3. under Item 3 of Paragraph (1): not later than four months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the Ministry of Interior and, respectively, not later than two months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the State Agency for National Security;

4. (new, SG No. 16/2013) under Item 5 of Paragraph (1): not later than four months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the Ministry of Interior and, respectively, not later than two months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the State Agency for National Security;

5. (renumbered from Item 4 and amended, SG No. 16/2013) under Item 6 of Paragraph (1): not later than two months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the Ministry of Interior and, respectively, not later than two months prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the State Agency for National Security;

6. (new, SG No. 103/2016) under Article 1, item 7, not later than 20 days prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the Ministry of Interior, respectively 10 days prior to the expiration of the time limit, applicable to the State Agency for National Security.

(4) (New, SG No. 21/2021) The Ministry of Interior and the State Agency for National Security shall submit updated opinions to the Ministry of Justice no later than the day of the session of the Citizenship Council, in case after the expression of their initial written opinions a change in the facts and circumstances has occurred.

(5) (New, SG No. 77/2018, effective 1.01.2019, renumbered from Paragraph 4, SG No. 21/2021) If the Minister of Justice failed to pronounce a decision within the timeline of paragraph 1 and the termination of proceedings before it, this will be appealable before the Administrative Court of Sofia Region under the procedure of the Administrative Procedure Code. The court shall verify only the movement of proceedings and shall pronounce by a ruling which shall be final.

Article 36

Acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization, resumption of Bulgarian citizenship, release from, and deprivation of citizenship, and revocation of naturalization shall be effected by a decree of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria. The said decree shall enter into force on the day of issuance thereof.

Article 37

(1) The Ministry of Justice shall issue certificates on any changes of citizenship of persons.

(2) Upon receipt of the decree referred to in Article 36 herein, the Ministry of Justice shall notify:

1. (new, SG No. 33/2010) the municipalities or mayoralties where the birth certificate of the person concerned is kept, for the purpose of recording the changes of citizenship in the civil status register;

2. (renumbered from Item 1, amended, SG No. 33/2010) the municipalities or the mayoralties where the person concerned has his or her permanent address, for the purpose of recording the changes of citizenship in the population register;

3. (amended, SG No. 82/2009, renumbered from Item 2, SG No. 33/2010) the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the purpose of issuing or withdrawing Bulgarian personal documents.

Article 38

The Ministry of Justice shall keep:

1. a journal of applications and motions for acquisition of Bulgarian

citizenship, for revocation of naturalization, for resumption, for release from, and for deprivation of Bulgarian citizenship;

2. a register of persons who have acquired Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization;

3. a register of persons who have lost Bulgarian citizenship;

4. a register of persons whose Bulgarian citizenship has been resumed.

Article 38a

(New, SG No. 21/2021)

The State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad shall create and maintain an electronic register with data of the persons for whom the Consultative Council has established Bulgarian origin. The procedure for keeping, storing and accessing the register shall be determined by an ordinance of the Council of Ministers.

Article 39

(1) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 21/2021) At the application of the person concerned, the Ministry of Justice shall issue a certificate of citizenship, indicating therein whether that person is or is not a Bulgarian citizen according to the registers kept at the Ministry. The certificate shall be issued within thirty days from the receipt of the documents at the Ministry of Justice.

(2) The certificate referred to in Paragraph (1) shall be valid for one year after issuance.

Article 40

(1) Information concerning citizenship of persons may be requested by:

1. the person whose citizenship is subject to the data stored, and upon his or her death, by his or her heirs;

2. the judicial authorities, the ministries and the bodies of local self-government and local administration, within the limits of the competence thereof and in the cases specified by a law.

(2) The Minister of Justice shall ensure the safe custody and storage of the documents related to citizenship.

Article 41

(1) (Redesignated from Article 41, SG No. 33/2010) Upon request, the central-government departments, the municipalities and the mayoralties shall be obligated to provide to the Ministry of Justice data or observations in connection with the Bulgarian citizenship proceedings.

(2) (New, SG No. 33/2010, amended, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013 SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014) The Ministry of Justice shall be entitled to access at no charge to the National Population Database maintained by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. The procedure, manner and scope of the data whereof access is provided shall be specified in an agreement between the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works and the Ministry of Justice.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

§ 1. Should the parents disagree, as well as should the children who have attained the age of 14 years but have not attained the age of 18 years disagree with the parents or curators thereof in the cases under Articles 18, 21, 28 and 29 herein, the dispute shall be settled by the Regional Court whereof the judgment shall be final.

§ 2. Within the meaning of this Act:

1. "Person of Bulgarian descent" shall be a person whereof at least one antecessor is a Bulgarian.

2. "Person permanently resident abroad" shall be a person who resides outside the Republic of Bulgaria for more than nine months within each calendar year,

unless his or her stay abroad is in discharge of civil service by the said person or by the spouse thereof, or is for the sole purpose of pursuit of studies.

3. (New, SG No. 41/2001) A person shall be deemed to be released from his or her previous citizenship where:

1. the said person has been released at his or her request under the terms and according to the procedure established by the lex patriae thereof;

2. the said person is losing the citizenship thereof by virtue of the naturalization according to the lex patriae thereof.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 3. Upon the entry of this Act into force, the Bulgarian citizenship of persons who have been deprived of Bulgarian citizenship under the Bulgarian Nationality Act of 1940 and under the Bulgarian Citizenship Act of 1948 shall be resumed.

§ 4. The Bulgarian citizenship of any Bulgarian citizens, who have been released from Bulgarian citizenship without having requested this and who have emigrated to countries wherewith Bulgaria has not concluded emigration agreements, shall be resumed if, within three years after the entry of this Act into force, the said persons submit a formal request to the Minister of Justice. Where the persons concerned reside abroad, the requests may be submitted care of the diplomatic missions or consular posts of the Republic of Bulgaria.

§ 5. Any applications submitted prior to the entry of this Act into force shall be examined and acted upon under the hitherto effective terms and according to the hitherto effective procedure.

§ 5a. (New, SG No. 21/2021) Citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who have applied for the acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by 31 December 2020, shall enjoy the rights of citizens of a Member State of the European Union, under Article 12, Paragraph 2, item 2.

§ 6. This Act shall supersede the Bulgarian Citizenship Act (promulgated in the State Gazette No. 79 of 1969; amended in No. 36 of 1979, No. 64 of 1986 and No. 38 of 1989).

§ 7. (1) The Minister of Justice shall issue an Ordinance on the Application of Chapter Five herein.

(2) Fees in amounts fixed by a Council of Ministers Rate Schedule shall be charged for the acts performed and the documents issued in connection with Bulgarian citizenship.

§ 8. (1) This Act shall enter into force three months after the promulgation thereof in the State Gazette.

(2) Within the time limit established under Paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Education and Science shall issue the statutory instruments on the application of this Act.

§ 9. The implementation of this Act shall be entrusted to the Minister of Justice.

ACT

to Amend and Supplement
the Bulgarian Citizenship Act
(SG No. 41/2001)

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Supplementary Provision

§ 10. In the Act, the words "the Ministry of Justice and European Legal Integration" "the Minister of Justice and European Legal Integration" and "a Deputy Minister of Justice and European Legal Integration" shall be replaced passim, respectively, by "the Ministry of Justice", "the Minister of Justice" and "a Deputy Minister of Justice".

Transitional Provision

§ 11. Any applications submitted prior to the entry of this Act into force shall be examined and acted upon under the hitherto effective terms and according to the hitherto effective procedure.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Bulgarian Citizenship Act
(SG No. 33/2010)

§ 8. Any applications submitted prior to the entry into force of this Act shall be examined and acted upon under the hitherto effective terms and according to the hitherto effective procedure within two years after the entry into force of this Act.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the amendment of Law on the entry, stay and departure from the
Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union citizens and their family members
(SG No. 21/2012)

§ 28. Until the entry into force of the act of the Council of Ministers, which approved models of the residence card of a family member of a Union citizen who has permanent or resident family member of an EU citizen and has exercised his right of free movement, applied current samples.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act on Amendment and Supplement of Spatial Development Act
(SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013)

§ 95. In the Bulgarian Citizenship Act (promulgated, SG No. 136/1998, amended, SG No. 41/2001, SG No. 54/2002, SG No. 52 and 109/2007, SG No. 74 and 82/2009, SG No. 33/2010, SG No. 11 and 21/2012, SG No. 16/2013) the words "Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works" is replaced by "the Ministry of regional development".

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Amendment and Supplement Act to the Foreigners in the Republic of
Bulgaria Act
(SG No. 108/2013)

§ 4. This act shall also apply to applications for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship by naturalization submitted in the period until its entry into force.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Spatial Development Act
(SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014)

§ 94. In the Bulgarian Citizenship Act (promulgated, SG No. 136/1998 amended, SG No. 41/2001, No. 54/2002, Nos. 52 and 109/2007, Nos. 74 and 82/2009 No. 33/2010, Nos. 11 and 21/2012, Nos. 16, 66, 68 and 108/2013) everywhere in the text the words "the Ministry of Regional Development" shall be replaced by "the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works".

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TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Bulgarian Citizenship Act
(SG No. 21/2021)

§ 13. The applications submitted prior the entry into force of this Act shall be considered and decided under the current conditions and procedure, with the exception of the requirements of Article 22, Article 32a and Article 35, Paragraph 4, which shall also apply to the existing proceedings in connection with Bulgarian citizenship.

§ 14. (1) A person who, by the entry into force of this Act, has received a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Bulgaria on the grounds of Article 25, Paragraph 1, Items 6 and 7 of the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act in conformity with the applicable provisions of the Act at the time of filing, has the right to submit an application for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship, if it meets the conditions under Article 12, Paragraph 1, Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 and provided that the made investment has been maintained for a period of not less than five years.

(2) The members of the family of a person under Paragraph 1 have the right to submit applications for acquisition of Bulgarian citizenship, if they meet the requirements of Article 12, Paragraph 1, Items 2, 3 and 4 and the person under Paragraph 1 has acquired Bulgarian citizenship.

§ 15. The electronic register under Article 38a shall be created within three months from the entry into force of this Act.

§ 16. All data of the applicants received by the State Agency for Bulgarians Abroad in the period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2020 shall be entered within six months from the establishment of the electronic register under Article 38a.

§ 17. Within six months of this Act's entry into force:

1. the Council of Ministers shall:

a) adopt the regulations under Article 29, Paragraph 7 and the ordinance under Article 38a;

b) bring into conformity with this Act the structural regulations adopted by him;

2. the ministers and the chairmen of the state agencies shall bring into conformity with this Act the acts related to its implementation, as well as the councils created by them, which do not meet the requirements of this Act;

3. the Minister of Economy shall issue the ordinance under Article 14a, Paragraph 4.

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FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend and Supplement the Investment Promotion Act
(SG No. 22/2022, effective 18.03.2022)

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§ 6. In the Bulgarian Citizenship Act (promulgated in the SG No. 136 of 1998 amended in No. 41 of 2001, Nos. 54 of 2002, Nos. 52 and 109 of 2007, Nos. 74 and 82 of 2009, Nos. 33 of 2010, Nos. 11 and 21 of 2012, Nos. 16, 66, 68 and 108 of 2013, Nos. 98 of 2014, Nos. 14 and 22 of 2015, No. 103 of 2016, No. 77 of 2018 and No. 21 of 2021), the words "the Ministry of Economy" and "the Minister of Economy" shall be replaced passim by "the Ministry of Innovation and Growth" and "the Minister of Innovation and Growth".

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TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend the Bulgarian Citizenship Act

§ 7. Any proceedings under the repealed Article 12a and Article 14a, which have not been completed before the entry into force of this Act, shall be terminated.

§ 8. (1) Where Bulgarian citizenship has been acquired by naturalization under the repealed Article 12a or the repealed Article 14a, the person who acquired it shall be obliged within fourteen days of the occurrence of the change in the facts and circumstances related to the investments, which became grounds for naturalization, to notify the competent authority which has certified the investments, and to present the documents proving the change.

(2) Naturalization on the grounds of the repealed Article 12a or the repealed Article 14a may be revoked under the conditions of Chapter Three, Section II, as well as when the person who has acquired Bulgarian citizenship has not notified of a change in accordance with paragraph 1 or has not maintained the investments that have served as grounds for acquiring Bulgarian citizenship for at least two years after the date of naturalization in the cases covered by the repealed Article 14a, paragraph 1, or for at least one year in the cases covered by the repealed Article 12a, paragraph 1, or has not maintained the jobs created in the cases covered by the repealed Article 14a, paragraph 1, subparagraph 3.

(3) The Ministry of Justice shall send to the competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 information regarding the persons who have acquired Bulgarian citizenship on the grounds of the repealed Articles 12a and 14a. The competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 shall notify the Minister for Justice of each established change in investments that results in failure to fulfil the obligation to maintain said investments.

(4) The competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 shall exercise control of the maintenance of the investments according to paragraph 2 after the end of the period specified in paragraph 2 and shall notify the Minister for Justice of the result, and the latter may request information from the State Agency for National Security.

§ 9. (1) Within 6 months of the entry of this Act into force the State Agency for National Security shall carry out an inspection of the existence of grounds for revocation of the naturalization on all files relating to Bulgarian citizenship acquired in accordance with the procedure laid down in the repealed Article 14a.

(2) In the cases where the time limit specified in the repealed Article 22(1)(4) has not expired, the inspection referred to in paragraph 1 shall be carried out within 6 months after its expiration.

(3) The Ministry of Justice shall provide to the State Agency for National Security information regarding the expiration of the time limits specified in the repealed Article 22(1)(4) for each separate case of Bulgarian citizenship acquired in accordance with the repealed Article 14a.

(4) The information regarding the results of the inspection referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be submitted to the Minister for Justice so that he/she can make an assessment in order to exercise his/her powers under Article 31(2).