

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**FEDERAL LAW**

**ON CITIZENSHIP OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Adopted by the State Duma on April 19, 2002  
Approved by the Council of the Federation on May 15, 2002

(as amended by Federal Laws N 151-FZ as of 11.11.2003,  
N 127-FZ as of 02.11.2004, N 5-FZ as of 03.01.2006,  
N 121-FZ as of 18.07.2006, N 296-FZ as of 01.12.2007,  
N 328-FZ as of 04.12.2007, N 163-FZ as of 01.10.2008,  
N 301-FZ as of 30.12.2008, N 127-FZ as of 28.06.2009)

**Chapter I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1. Subject of regulation by the present Federal Law

The present Federal Law comprises the principles of the Russian Federation citizenship and the rules governing relations connected to the Russian Federation citizenship, and establishes the grounds, conditions and procedure for the acquisition and termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation.

Article 2. Citizenship legislation of the Russian Federation

The matters of citizenship of the Russian Federation are regulated by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, international treaties of the Russian Federation, the present Federal Law, as well as other regulatory acts of the Russian Federation enacted pursuant thereto.

Article 3. Basic terms

The following basic terms are used for the purposes of the present Federal Law:  
"Citizenship of the Russian Federation" means a stable legal relation of a person with the Russian Federation that manifests itself in an aggregate of their mutual rights and duties;

"Other citizenship" means the citizenship (allegiance) of a foreign state;

"Dual citizenship" means that a citizen of the Russian Federation has the citizenship (allegiance) of a foreign state;

"Foreign national" means a person who is not a citizen of the Russian Federation and who has the citizenship (allegiance) of a foreign state;

"Stateless person" means a person who is not a citizen of the Russian Federation and who has no proof of possessing the citizenship of a foreign state;

"Child" means a person under the age of 18;

"Residence" means a person's lawful residence within or outside the territory of the Russian Federation;

"Territory of the Russian Federation" means the territory of the Russian Federation within the State Border of the Russian Federation or the territory of the RSFSR within the administrative border of the RSFSR as of the day of the emergence of circumstances relevant to the acquisition or termination of the Russian Federation citizenship under the present Federal Law;

"General procedure for the acquisition or termination of the Russian Federation citizenship" means a procedure for considering citizenship matters and making decisions on the issues of the Russian Federation citizenship by the President of the Russian Federation in respect of persons subject to the general terms and conditions set out by the present Federal Law;

"Simplified procedure for acquisition or termination of the Russian Federation citizenship" means a procedure for considering citizenship matters and making decisions on the issues of the Russian Federation citizenship in respect of persons entitled to facilitated terms provided for by this Federal Law;

"Change of citizenship" means acquisition or termination of the Russian Federation citizenship;

"Residence permit" means a personal identity document of a stateless person, issued to the stateless person or the foreign national to certify permission for permanent residence in the territory of the Russian Federation, and certifying their right to freely exit and return to the Russian Federation.

#### Article 4. Principles of the Russian Federation citizenship and the rules regulating the matters of the Russian Federation citizenship

1. The principles of Russian Federation citizenship and the rules regulating the matters of the Russian Federation citizenship shall not contain provisions which restrict citizens' rights by virtue of social, racial, ethnic, language or religion belonging.

2. Citizenship of the Russian Federation is single and equal, irrespective of the grounds for its acquisition.

3. The Russian Federation citizen's residence outside the Russian Federation shall not terminate his/her Russian Federation citizenship.

4. A citizen of the Russian Federation shall not be deprived of the Russian Federation citizenship or of the right to change it.

5. A citizen of the Russian Federation shall not be exiled out of the Russian Federation or handed over to a foreign state.

6. The Russian Federation shall encourage the acquisition of the citizenship of the Russian Federation by stateless persons residing in the territory of the Russian Federation.

7. Possession by a person of the citizenship of the Russian Federation or the fact of previous possession of the USSR citizenship shall be determined on the basis of legislative acts of the Russian Federation, RSFSR or the USSR and international treaties of the Russian Federation, RSFSR or the USSR effective on the day of the emergence of circumstances to which the possession of the respective citizenship by the person is attributed.

## Article 5. Citizens of the Russian Federation

The following persons shall be citizens of the Russian Federation:

- a) Persons possessing the citizenship of the Russian Federation on the day of entry into force of this Federal Law;
- b) Persons who have acquired the citizenship of the Russian Federation in compliance with this Federal Law.

## Article 6. Dual citizenship

1. A citizen of the Russian Federation who also possesses another citizenship shall be regarded by the Russian Federation as a citizen of the Russian Federation only, except for the cases specified in an international treaty of the Russian Federation or federal law.

2. The acquisition of another citizenship by a citizen of the Russian Federation shall not entail termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation.

## Article 7. Protection and assistance to the citizens of the Russian Federation staying outside the Russian Federation

1. The citizens of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation shall be granted protection and assistance by the Russian Federation.

2. State authorities of the Russian Federation, diplomatic missions and consular authorities of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation and their respective officials shall ensure that citizens of the Russian Federation be given the opportunity to fully exercise all the rights established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, and generally accepted principles and rules of the international law, international treaties of the Russian Federation and by the laws and regulations of their host States, as well as the opportunity to protect their rights and legitimate interests.

## Article 8. Citizenship of the Russian Federation and Marriage

1. Contracting or dissolution of marriage by a citizen of the Russian Federation with a non-citizen of the Russian Federation shall not entail the change of the said persons' citizenship.

2. Change of citizenship by either spouse shall not entail change of the citizenship of the other spouse.

3. Dissolution of marriage shall not entail change of the citizenship of the children born into that marriage or adopted by the spouses.

## Article 9. Citizenship of children

1. The citizenship of a child upon the acquisition or termination of the Russian Federation citizenship by one or both of the child's parents shall be retained or shall be changed in compliance with the present Federal Law.

2. The acquisition or termination of the Russian Federation citizenship by a child between 14 and 18 years of age shall be subject to his/her consent.

3. A child's citizenship of the Russian Federation shall not be terminated if such termination results in his/her statelessness.

4. A child's citizenship shall not change with the change of the citizenship of his/her parents deprived of their parental rights. The change of a child's citizenship shall not require the consent of his/her parents deprived of their parental rights.

#### Article 10. Documents to certify the citizenship of the Russian Federation

The documents to certify the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be the Passport of the Russian Federation Citizen or another basic document indicating the person's citizenship. The types of basic documents certifying the identity of the Russian Federation citizens shall be established by federal law.

## **Chapter II. ACQUISITION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CITIZENSHIP**

#### Article 11. Grounds for the acquisition of the Russian Federation citizenship

The citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be acquired:

- a) By birth;
- b) Through conferment of nationality of the Russian Federation;
- c) Through restoration of citizenship of the Russian Federation;
- d) Or otherwise according to this Federal Law or an international treaty of the Russian Federation.

#### Article 12. Acquisition of the citizenship of the Russian Federation by birth

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Concerning application of the first part of Article 12, see Decision of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation N 235 as of 24.05.2005.

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1. A child shall acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation by virtue of birth if as of the day of birth of the child:

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Provision of Item "a" of the first part of Article 12 does not interfere with the person whose both parents or his/her single parent are recognized the Russian Federation citizens by of birth, irrespective of the birthplace of this person in the territory of the former USSR, in recognition of the citizenship of the Russian Federation by virtue of birth, so long as this person has not forfeited the citizenship of the Russian Federation willfully (Definition of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation N 118 as of 21.04.2005).

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- a) Both his/her parents or single parent possess the citizenship of the Russian Federation (irrespective of the place of the child's birth);
- b) One of his/her parents possesses the citizenship of the Russian Federation and the other is stateless or declared missing or his/her whereabouts are unknown, irrespective of the place of the child's birth;
- c) One of his/her parents possesses the citizenship of the Russian Federation and the other is a foreign national, provided that the child was born in the territory of the Russian Federation or if the child would otherwise become stateless;
- d) Both his/her parents residing in the territory of the Russian Federation are foreign nationals or stateless persons, provided that the child was born in the territory of the Russian Federation and the State, whose nationals his/her parents are, does not grant the citizenship to the child.

(Item "d" as amended by Federal Law N 151-FZ as of 11.11.2003)

2. A child found in the territory of the Russian Federation, whose parents are unknown, shall become a citizen of the Russian Federation if his/her parents do not turn up within six months after the child was found.

Article 13. Admission to the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the general procedure

(as amended by Federal Law N 151-FZ as of 11.11.2003)

1. Foreign nationals and stateless persons aged eighteen or older and possessing legal capacity may apply for the Russian Federation citizenship under the general procedure provided that they:

a) Resided in the territory of the Russian Federation for five uninterrupted years since being granted a residence permit and until the day of applying for the citizenship of the Russian Federation, unless otherwise provided by part two of this Article. The period of residence shall be deemed uninterrupted if the person travelled outside the Russian Federation for not more than three months in one year;

b) Undertake to comply with the Constitution of the Russian Federation and laws of the Russian Federation;

c) Have legal means of subsistence;

d) Applied to competent authority of a foreign State for renunciation of current another citizenship. No waiver of foreign citizenship is required if this is envisaged by an international treaty of the Russian Federation or the present Federal Law or if the waiver of another citizenship is impossible due to reasons beyond the person's control;

e) Know the Russian language; the procedure for assessing the level of knowledge of the Russian language shall be established by the regulations on the procedure for considering the issues concerning Russian Federation citizenship.

2. The period of residence referred to in Item (a) of Part One of this Article may be shortened in the presence of at least one of the following grounds:

Items a) - c) are excluded. - Federal Law N 151-FZ as of 11.11.2003

a) The person has high achievements in science, technology or culture or possession of a profession or qualification of interest to the Russian Federation;

e) The person has been granted political asylum in the territory of the Russian Federation;

f) The person has been recognized as a refugee according to the procedure established by federal law.

3. A person with special merits for the Russian Federation may be admitted to the citizenship of the Russian Federation without complying with the requirements provided by part one of this Article.

4. Citizens of the states, which had formed part of the USSR, serving at least three years in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and other forces or military units under contract, shall be entitled to apply for admittance to the Russian Federation citizenship without observing the terms and conditions referred to in Item (a) of Part One of this Article and without providing residence permit.

(Part Four is brought by Federal Law N 151-FZ as of November 11, 2003, as amended by Federal Law N 328-FZ as of 04.12.2007)

Article 14. Admission to the citizenship of the Russian Federation under simplified procedure

(as amended by Federal Law N 328-FZ as of 04.12.2007)

1. Foreign nationals and stateless persons aged 18 or older and possessing legal capacity may apply for admission to the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the simplified procedure without meeting the requirements referred to in Item (a) of Part One of Article 13 of this Federal Law, provided the said citizens and persons:

a) Have at least one parent who is a Russian citizen and resides on Russian Federation territory;

b) Have had USSR citizenship, and having resided and residing in the states that have formed part of the USSR, have not become citizens of these states and as a result remain stateless persons;

c) Are citizens of the states which have formed part of the USSR, have received secondary vocational or higher vocational education at educational institutions of the Russian Federation after July 1, 2002.

2. Foreign citizens and stateless persons residing in the territory of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to apply for admittance to the Russian citizenship in a simplified manner without observing the condition concerning the time of residence established by Item "a" of Part One of Article 13 of this Federal Law, if the said citizens and persons:

a) Have been born in the territory of the RSFSR and have been citizens of the former USSR;

b) Have been married to a citizen of the Russian Federation within at least three years;

c) Are disabled persons and have a capable son or daughter who has reached the age of eighteen and is a citizen of the Russian Federation.

d) Have a child who is the citizen of the Russian Federation, and in case the other parent of this child, who is the citizen of the Russian Federation, is deceased, or under decision of the court, which has come into effect, is recognized as missing, legally incapable or specially disabled or deprived of the parental rights or limited in the parental rights;

(Item (d) is brought by Federal law N 127-FZ as of 28.06.2009)

e) Have a son or a daughter who has reached the age of eighteen, being a citizen of the Russian Federation, and under decision of the court, which has come into effect, is recognized as legally incapable or specially disabled, in case the other parent of the specified citizens of the Russian Federation, who is the citizen of the Russian Federation, is deceased, or under decision of the court, which has come into effect, is recognized as missing, legally incapable or specially disabled or deprived of the parental rights or limited in the parental rights;

(Item (e) is brought by Federal law N 127-FZ as of 28.06.2009)

3. Disabled foreign citizens and stateless persons who have come to the Russian Federation from the states which have formed part of the USSR, and are registered at the place of residence in the Russian Federation, as of July 1, 2002, shall be entitled to file an application for admittance to the Russian citizenship in the simplified manner without observing the condition concerning the term of residence in the territory of the Russian Federation established by Item (a) of Part One of Article 13 of this Federal Law and without submitting the residence permit.

4. Foreign citizens and stateless persons who have been citizens of the USSR who have come to the Russian Federation from the states which formed part of the USSR, who are registered at the place of residence in the Russian Federation as on

July 1, 2002, or have received a permit for temporary residence in the Russian Federation shall be admitted to citizenship of the Russian Federation in the simplified manner without observing the conditions provided for by Items "a", "c" and "e" of Part One of Article 13 of this Federal Law and without presenting a residence permit if they, prior to January 1, 2006, declare their wish to become citizens of the Russian Federation.

5. Veterans of the Great Patriotic War who have been citizens of the former USSR and reside in the territory of the Russian Federation shall be admitted to Russian Federation citizenship in the simplified manner without observing the conditions provided by Items "a", "c", "d" and "e" of Part One of Article 13 of this Federal Law and without presenting a residence permit.

6. There shall be admitted to citizenship of the Russian Federation in the simplified manner without observing the conditions provided for by Part One of Article 13 of this Federal Law children and disabled persons who are foreign citizens or stateless persons:

a) A child, one of whose parents is a citizen of the Russian Federation - on the application of this parent and in the presence of the other parent's consent to the child's becoming a citizen of the Russian Federation. Such consent shall not be required if the child resides in the territory of the Russian Federation;

b) A child, whose only parent is a citizen of the Russian Federation - on the application of this parent;

c) A child or disabled persons, who are in custody or guardianship - on the application of the custodian or guardian who are citizens of the Russian Federation.

7. Foreign citizens and stateless persons, who have registration at the place of their residence in the constituent territory of the Russian Federation, chosen by them for their permanent residence according to the Government program on rendering assistance to voluntary resettlement to the Russian Federation of the compatriots living abroad, can acquire citizenship of the Russian Federation in the simplified order without compliance with the conditions provided by Items "a", "c" and "e" of Part One of Article 13 of this Federal Law.

(Part Seven is brought by Federal law N 163-FZ as of 01.10.2008)

#### Article 15. Reinstatement in the citizenship of the Russian Federation

Foreign nationals and stateless persons who previously possessed the citizenship of the Russian Federation may be reinstated in the citizenship of the Russian Federation in accordance with part one of Article 13 of this Federal Law, with their required period of residence in the territory of the Russian Federation being reduced to three years.

#### Article 16. Grounds to reject application for admission to the citizenship of the Russian Federation

The naturalization applications asking for the Russian Federation citizenship and the application for reinstatement of the Russian Federation citizenship filed by the following persons, shall be rejected:

a) Persons who advocate changing by force the fundamentals of the constitutional system of the Russian Federation or who otherwise create a threat to the security of the Russian Federation;

b) Persons who were evicted out of the Russian Federation under a federal law during the five-year term preceding the day of filing of the naturalization application asking for Russian Federation citizenship or the application for reinstatement of Russian Federation citizenship;

c) Persons who have used forged documents or provided deliberately untrue information;

d) Persons who undergo military service or service with the security bodies or law-enforcement bodies of a foreign state, except as otherwise envisaged by an international treaty of the Russian Federation;

e) Persons whose previous conviction for the committal of felonious crimes in the territory of the

Russian Federation or abroad, such crimes being recognized as such under a federal law, and have not been cleared or expunged;

f) Persons who are criminally prosecuted by the competent bodies of the Russian Federation or competent bodies of foreign states for crimes recognized as such under a federal law (before the court verdict or decision in the case);

g) Persons who have been convicted and who serve a sentence in the form of imprisonment for actions subject to prosecution under a federal law (before the expiration of the sentence term);

h) Excluded.

Article 17. Choice of citizenship upon the alteration of the state border of the Russian Federation

Upon the alteration of the State border of the Russian Federation under an international treaty of the Russian Federation, persons residing in the territory whose state affiliation has been altered shall have the right to choose citizenship (right of option) under the procedure and within the periods established by the respective international treaty of the Russian Federation.

### **CHAPTER III. TERMINATION OF THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Article 18. Grounds for the termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation

The citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be terminated:

a) in consequence of the withdrawal from the citizenship of the Russian Federation;

b) otherwise, as provided for by this Federal Law or an international treaty of the Russian Federation.

Article 19. Withdrawal from the citizenship of the Russian Federation

1. Withdrawal from the citizenship of the Russian Federation by a person residing in the territory of the Russian Federation shall be subject to such person's own free will and shall be effected under general procedure except for the cases specified in Article 20 of this Federal Law.

2. Withdrawal from the citizenship of the Russian Federation by a person residing in the territory of a foreign State shall be subject to such person's own free



will and shall be effected under the simplified procedure except for the cases specified in Article 20 of this Federal Law.

3. The withdrawal from the citizenship of the Russian Federation of a child whose either parent possesses the citizenship of the Russian Federation and the other one is a foreign national or whose single parent is a foreign national shall be effected under the simplified procedure upon joint application by the parents or application by the single parent.

Article 20. Grounds to deny termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation

Withdrawal from the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall not be permitted if the citizen of the Russian Federation:

- a) Owes an outstanding obligation to the Russian Federation established by the federal laws;
- b) Is under indictment in a criminal case in the Russian Federation or under a sentence of conviction which has taken effect and is pending execution;
- c) Possesses no other citizenship or guarantee for the acquisition thereof.

Article 21. Choice of another citizenship (option) in case of alteration of the state border of the Russian Federation

In case of territorial changes resulting from the alteration of the State border of the Russian Federation under an international treaty of the Russian Federation, citizens of the Russian Federation residing in the territory subject to the said changes shall be entitled to retain or change their citizenship under the terms of that international treaty.

#### **CHAPTER IV. REVERSAL OF DECISIONS CONCERNING THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Article 22. Grounds for reversal of decisions concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation

A decision on the acquisition or termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be reversed should it be established that the said decision was based on forged documents presented or false information knowingly provided by the applicant. The fact of the use of forged documents or deliberate provision of false information shall be established in judicial proceedings.

Article 23. Procedure and consequences of the reversal of decisions concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation

1. A decision concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be reversed by the President of the Russian Federation or another authorized agency dealing with cases concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation, which has taken the decision.

2. A decision concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation, if reversed in compliance with Article 21 of this Federal Law, shall be deemed invalid from the day when the decision was taken.

**CHAPTER V. CITIZENSHIP OF CHILDREN UPON THE CHANGE OF  
CITIZENSHIP OF THEIR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND TRUSTEES.  
CITIZENSHIP OF INCAPABLE PERSONS.**

Article 24. Change of citizenship of children upon acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Russian Federation by their parents

1. A child shall acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation if his/her either parents or a single parent acquires the citizenship of the Russian Federation.

2. A child's citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be terminated upon the termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation of his/her either parents or a single parent, provided that the child will not become a stateless person.

Article 25. Citizenship of children upon acquisition or termination of citizenship of the Russian Federation by either parent

1. Where either parent possessing another citizenship acquires the citizenship of the Russian Federation, their child resident in the territory of the Russian Federation may acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation upon an application by the parent who acquires the citizenship of the Russian Federation.

2. Where either parent possessing another citizenship acquires the citizenship of the Russian Federation, their child resident outside the Russian Federation may acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation upon an application by both parents.

3. Where either parent possessing another citizenship acquires the citizenship of the Russian Federation and the other parent is a stateless person, their child may acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation upon an application by the parent who acquires the citizenship of the Russian Federation.

4. Where either parent acquiring the citizenship of the Russian Federation is a stateless person and the other parent possesses another citizenship, their child may acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation upon an application by both parents.

5. Where the citizenship of the Russian Federation of either parent terminates, and the other parent remains a citizen of the Russian Federation, their child shall retain the citizenship of the Russian Federation. The child's citizenship of the Russian Federation may be terminated simultaneously with the termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation of either parent subject to written consent of the other parent who is a citizen of the Russian Federation and provided that the child will not become a stateless person.

Article 26. Citizenship of children upon their adoption

1. A child who is a citizen of the Russian Federation, upon being adopted by foreign nationals or a foreign national shall retain the citizenship of the Russian Federation. The citizenship of the Russian Federation of a child adopted by a foreign national or foreign nationals may be terminated under the general procedure on the basis of an application by both adoptive parents or the single adoptive parent provided that the child will not become a stateless person.

2. A child adopted by a citizen of the Russian Federation or spouses who are citizens of the Russian Federation or spouses one of whom is a citizen of the Russian Federation and the other one is a stateless person, shall acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation from the day of his/her adoption, irrespective of the child's place

of residence, on the basis of an application by the adoptive parent who is a citizen of the Russian Federation.

3. A child adopted by the spouses, one of whom is a citizen of the Russian Federation and the other one possesses another citizenship, may acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the simplified procedure on the basis of an application by both adoptive parents irrespective of the child's place of residence.

4. In the case specified in part three of this Article, in the absence of an application from both adoptive parents within one year of the day of adoption, the child shall acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation from the day of adoption, provided that he/she and his/her adoptive parents reside in the territory of the Russian Federation.

Article 27. Citizenship of children and incapable persons under guardianship or trusteeship

1. Children and incapable persons under guardianship or trusteeship of a citizen of the Russian Federation shall acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the simplified procedure upon an application by the guardian or trustee.

2. A child or incapable person who is under State care in an upbringing or health-treatment institution, social protection institution or another similar institution of the Russian Federation shall acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the simplified procedure upon an application by the director of the institution where the child or incapable person is residing.

3. A child or incapable person under guardianship or trusteeship of a foreign national acquiring the citizenship of the Russian Federation may acquire the citizenship of the Russian Federation simultaneously with the said person upon his/her application.

4. A child or incapable person who is a citizen of the Russian Federation and is under guardianship or trusteeship of a foreign national shall retain the citizenship of the Russian Federation.

## **CHAPTER VI. AUTHORIZED AGENCIES IN CHARGE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CITIZENSHIP**

Article 28. Authorized agencies in charge of the citizenship of the Russian Federation

1. The authorized agencies in charge of the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be:

- President of the Russian Federation;
- Federal executive agency authorized to perform control and supervision functions in the sphere of migration and its territorial agencies;

(as amended by Federal Law N 121-FZ as of 18.07.2006)

- Federal executive agency in charge of foreign affairs, diplomatic missions and consular institutions of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation.

2. The powers of the agencies in charge of the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be determined by this Federal Law.

Article 29. Powers of the President of the Russian Federation

1. The President of the Russian Federation shall take decisions on the following matters:

a) Admission to the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the general procedure under Article 13 of this Federal Law;

b) Reinstatement in the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the general procedure under Article 15 of this Federal Law;

c) Withdrawal from the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the general procedure in compliance with part one of Article 19 and part one of Article 26 of this Federal Law;

d) Reversal of decisions on the citizenship of the Russian Federation in compliance with Article 23 of this Federal Law;

2. The President of the Russian Federation shall approve the rules on the procedure for considering matters concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation.

3. The President of the Russian Federation shall ensure the coordinated functioning and co-operation of authorized agencies dealing with cases concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation in implementing this Federal Law.

4. The President of the Russian Federation shall issue decrees on matters concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation.

5. In the presence of circumstances indicated in items b) to g) of Article 16 of this Federal Law, the President of the Russian Federation shall be entitled, in exceptional cases, to consider the admission to or reinstatement in the citizenship of the Russian Federation of foreign nationals and stateless persons under Articles 13–15 of this Federal Law.

(as amended by Federal Law N 151-FZ as of 11.11.2003)

Article 30. Powers of the Federal Executive Agency authorized to perform control and supervision functions in the sphere of migration and its territorial agencies

The Federal executive agency authorized to perform control and supervision functions in the sphere of migration and its territorial agencies shall exercise the following powers:

(as amended by Federal Law N 121-FZ as of 18.07.2006)

a) Determine possession of the citizenship of the Russian Federation by persons residing in the territory of the Russian Federation;

b) Accept from the persons residing in the territory of the Russian Federation applications concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation;

c) Verify the facts and documents submitted in support of applications for the Russian Federation citizenship and, if necessary, request additional information from the respective government agencies;

d) Submit applications for the Russian Federation citizenship, documents and other materials provided in support thereof, and findings on the said applications, documents and materials to the President of the Russian Federation in the cases provided by part one of Article 29 of this Federal Law;

e) Implement decisions on citizenship adopted by the President of the Russian Federation in respect of the persons residing in the territory of the Russian Federation;

f) Consider applications on citizenship of the Russian Federation from the persons residing in the territory of the Russian Federation and take decisions

concerning admission to the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the simplified procedure in compliance with Article 14, part three of Article 19 and part three of Article 26 of this Federal Law;

g) Keep records of persons in whose respect decisions on the change of citizenship have been taken by the Federal executive agency authorized to perform control and supervision functions in the sphere of migration or its territorial agencies;

h) Register the citizenship of the Russian Federation in the cases specified in part two of Article 12, parts two and four of Article 26 of this Federal Law;

i) Reverse decisions on citizenship of the Russian Federation in compliance with Article 23 of this Federal Law.

Article 31. Powers of the Federal executive agency in charge of foreign affairs, diplomatic missions and consular institutions of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation

The Federal executive agency in charge of foreign affairs, diplomatic missions and consular institutions of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation shall:

a) Determine possession of citizenship of the Russian Federation by persons residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation;

b) Accept from persons residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation applications for citizenship of the Russian Federation;

c) Verify the facts and documents submitted to support applications for citizenship of the Russian Federation and, if necessary, request additional information from the respective government agencies;

d) Submit applications for citizenship of the Russian Federation, documents and other materials provided in support thereof, and findings on the said applications, documents and materials to the President of the Russian Federation in the cases provided by part one of Article 29 of this Federal Law;

e) Execute decisions concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation taken by the President of the Russian Federation in respect of persons residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation;

f) Consider applications for citizenship of the Russian Federation from persons residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation and take decisions on admission to the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the simplified procedure in compliance with Article 14, parts two and three of Article 19 and part three of Article 26 of this Federal Law;

g) Keep records of persons in whose respect decisions on the change of citizenship were issued by diplomatic missions and consular institutions of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation;

h) Register the citizenship of the Russian Federation in the cases specified in part two of Article 26 of this Federal Law;

i) Reverse decisions concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation in compliance with Article 23 of this Federal Law.

## **CHAPTER VII. PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO MATTERS OF THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Article 32. Procedure for filing applications concerning issues of citizenship of the Russian Federation

1. Applications for citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be filed at the applicant's place of residence:

a) By a person residing in the territory of the Russian Federation - with the territorial agency of the Federal executive agency authorized to perform control and supervision functions in the sphere of migration;

(as amended by Federal Law N 121-FZ as of 18.07.2006)

b) By a person residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation and having no place of residence in the territory of the Russian Federation - with the respective diplomatic mission or consular institution of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation.

2. The application shall be delivered by the applicant in person.

3. Where the applicant is unable to personally deliver the application due to exceptional and documented circumstances, the application and supporting documents may be delivered for consideration by another person or sent by mail. In this case, the applicant's personal signature on the application and the authenticity of the copy of a document attached to the application shall be certified by notarial entries.

4. An application for the change of the citizenship of a child or incapable person shall be filed by his/her parents or other lawful representatives at the place of residence of the child or legally incapable person.

(as amended by Federal Law N 151-FZ as of 11.11.2003)

Article 33. Procedure for drawing up applications concerning issues of the Russian Federation citizenship

1. Applications concerning the Russian Federation citizenship shall be drawn up in writing according to the established form. The personal signature of the applicant shall be certified by the duly authorized official of the authorized agency dealing with cases concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation who accepted the application.

2. Where the applicant is unable to sign the application for reasons of illiteracy or physical disability, it shall, at his/her request, be signed by another person, with that person's signature being certified with a notarial entry. Outside the territory of the Russian Federation such an entry shall be made on the application by a duly authorized official of the diplomatic mission or consular authority of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation.

3. The consent of the persons concerned to the acquisition or termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation in the cases provided for by this Federal Law shall be given in writing, with the said persons' signatures being certified with notarial entries.. The signatures of persons residing outside the Russian Federation shall be authenticated by duly authorized officials of the diplomatic missions or consular authorities of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation.

4. The application form and the check-list of information to be stated therein and supporting documents applicable to specific grounds for the acquisition or termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be determined by the rules on the procedure for considering matters concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation to be approved by the President of the Russian Federation.

Article 34. Levying state duties and consular fees

1. Upon the submission of applications for admission to, reinstatement in, or withdrawal from the citizenship of the Russian Federation, as well as upon determination of the possession of the citizenship of the Russian Federation as requested by the persons concerned, a State duty shall be levied in the territory of the Russian Federation, and a consular fee outside the territory of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

(Part Four as amended by Federal Law N 127-FZ as of 02.11.2004)

2. In the event the application concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation is rejected for the reasons provided by Articles 16 and 29 of this Federal Law, the State duties or consular fees shall not be refunded.

Article 35. Procedure and Duration for decision-making on the issues of the Russian Federation citizenship

1. Decisions concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the general procedure shall be taken by the President of the Russian Federation.

2. Applications concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be processed and decisions concerning admission to the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the general procedure shall be taken within one year from the day when the application and all the required and duly executed documents were filed.

(as amended by Federal Law N 151-FZ as of 11.11.2003)

3. Decisions concerning acquiring citizenship of the Russian Federation and renunciation of citizenship of the Russian Federation under the simplified procedure according to Article 14, Part Three of Article 19 and Part Three of Article 26 of this Federal Law shall be taken by the Federal executive agency authorized to perform control and supervision functions in the sphere of migration and its territorial agencies;

(as amended by Federal Law N 121-FZ as of 18.07.2006)

Decisions concerning acquiring citizenship of the Russian Federation and renunciation of citizenship of the Russian Federation under the simplified procedure according to Part One and Six of Article 14, Part One and Three of Article 19 and Part Three of Article 26 of this Federal Law shall be taken by Federal executive agency in charge of foreign affairs, diplomatic missions and consular institutions of the Russian Federation outside the Russian Federation.

(Part Three as amended by Federal Law N 151-FZ as of 11.11.2003)

4. Applications concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be processed and decisions concerning admission to the citizenship of the Russian Federation under the simplified procedure shall be taken within six months from the day when the application and all the required and duly executed documents were filed.

(as amended by Federal Law N 121-FZ as of 18.07.2006)

5. Decisions concerning the Russian Federation citizenship shall be issued in writing and indicate the respective motivations.

Article 36. Acceptance of resubmitted applications for the Russian Federation Citizenship

1. A person in whose respect a decision for the Russian Federation citizenship has been issued may resubmit an application concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation not earlier than one year after the previous decision was taken.

2. In the event of circumstances that were not or could not be known to the applicant, the resubmitted application may be accepted without complying with the term specified in part one of this Article.

Article 37. Day of acquisition or termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation

1. The Russian Federation citizenship shall be acquired:

Under Article 12 of this Federal Law, on the day of the child's birth;

Under Parts Two and Four of Article 26 of this Federal Law, on the day of the child's adoption;

Otherwise, on the day of issue of the respective decision by the authorized agency in charge of the Russian Federation citizenship.

2. The citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be terminated on the day of issue of the respective decision by the authorized agency in charge of the Russian Federation citizenship.

Article 38. Execution of decisions on the Russian Federation Citizenship

1. Authorized agencies in charge of the Russian Federation citizenship which accepted application for the Russian Federation citizenship shall inform the persons concerned about the decision taken and issue them respective documents.

2. The Federal executive agency authorized to perform control and supervision functions in the sphere of migration and the Federal executive agency in charge of foreign affairs shall exercise control over the execution of decisions concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation and inform the President of the Russian Federation thereof within the time specified in the rules on the procedure for considering matters concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation, to be approved by the President of the Russian Federation.

## **CHAPTER VIII. APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF AUTHORIZED AGENCIES IN CHARGE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CITIZENSHIP AND ACTIVITY OF THEIR OFFICIALS. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES CONCERNING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CITIZENSHIP**

Article 39. Appeals against decisions concerning the Russian Federation Citizenship

Decision of the authorized agency in charge of the Russian Federation citizenship to reject an application for the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be appealable in court under the procedure provided by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Article 40. Appeals against actions of officials of the authorized agencies in charge of the Russian Federation citizenship



Refusal to consider an application for the citizenship of the Russian Federation and other actions of officials of authorized agencies in charge of the Russian Federation citizenship that violate the procedure for cases concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation and the procedure for executing decisions on the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall be appealable before the superior official or in court.

Article 41. Settlement of disputes concerning the citizenship of a child or incapable person

Disputes between the parents or between a parent and a guardian or trustee about the citizenship of a child or incapable person shall be heard in judicial proceedings in the light of the interests of the child or incapable person.

## **CHAPTER IX. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

Article 42. Validity of documents issued in conformity with the previous legislation on the citizenship of the Russian Federation

Documents issued in conformity with the previous legislation on the citizenship of the Russian Federation shall retain their legal force, provided they have been properly executed, and shall be considered valid on the day of entry into force of this Federal Law.

Article 43. Procedure for considering applications concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation accepted prior to entry into force of this Federal Law

1. The examination and decision-making on applications concerning the citizenship of the Russian Federation accepted prior to the entry into force of this Federal Law shall comply with this Federal Law, except for the cases specified in part two of this Article.

2. Where the Law of the Russian Federation “On Citizenship of the Russian Federation” established the procedure for the acquisition or termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation that is more preferential than in this Federal Law, the examination of and decision-making on applications referred to in part one of this Article shall be effected in accordance with the procedure established by the aforesaid Law of the Russian Federation.

Article 44. Bringing of Normative Legal Acts Into Conformity with this Federal Law

1. From the day of entry into force of this Federal Law, the following acts shall be declared invalid:

Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, “On the Procedure for Admission to the Citizenship of the RSFSR” as of 29 June 1981 (Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta RSFSR, 1981, No. 26, i. 903);

Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, “On Approving the Rules on the Procedure for Considering Matters Concerning Admission to the Citizenship of the RSFSR in the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR” as of 29 June 1981;

Law of the RSFSR “On Approving the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, “On the Procedure for Admission to the Citizenship of the RSFSR”, as of 8 July 1981 (Vedomosti Verhovnogo Soveta RSFSR, 1981, No. 28, i. 982);

Law of the Russian Federation No. 1948-1 “On the Citizenship of the Russian Federation” as of November 28, 1991 (Vedomosti Syezda narodnykh deputatov Rossiyskoi Federatsii i Verkhovnogo Soveta Rossiyskoi Federatsii, 1992, No. 6, i. 243), except for items “a”, “b” and “c” of Article 18, part three of Article 19, Articles 20 and 41, which establish a more facilitated procedure, as compared to this Federal Law, for the acquisition or termination of the citizenship of the Russian Federation by persons whose applications concerning citizenship were accepted for processing prior to entry into force of this Federal Law;

Items 2 to 4 and 7 to 18 of the Russian Federation Law No. 5206-1 “On Introducing Amendments and Additions into the Law of the RSFSR “On Citizenship of the RSFSR” as of 17 June 1993 (Vedomosti Syezda narodnykh deputatov Rossiyskoi Federatsii i Verkhovnogo Soveta Rossiyskoi Federatsii, 1993, No. 29, i. 1112);

Federal Law No. 13-FZ “On Introducing an Amendment into the Russian Federation Law “On Citizenship of the Russian Federation” as of 6 February 1995 (Sobraniye zakonodaylstva Rossiyskoi Federatsii, 1995, No. 7, i. 496);

Article 11 of Federal Law No. 99-FZ “On the State Policy of the Russian Federation with regard to Compatriots Abroad” as of 24 May 1999 (Sobraniye zakonodaylstva Rossiyskoi Federatsii, 1999, No. 22, i. 2670).

2. The President of the Russian Federation and Government of the Russian Federation shall be advised to bring the normative legal acts into conformity with this Federal Law within six months of the day of its entry into force.

Article 45. Effectiveness of this Federal Law

This Federal Law shall enter into force on 1 July 2002.

President of the Russian Federation  
V. Putin

Moscow, the Kremlin  
May 31, 2002  
N 62-FZ