

## **Maldivian Citizenship Act**

1. This Act may be cited as the “Maldivian Citizenship Act”.
2. Any person, who wishes to become a citizen of Maldives, shall have the right to submit a written application to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided he qualifies the following conditions;
  - a) he is a Muslim;
  - b) he has attained the age of 21 and is of sound mind;
  - c) he has resided in the Maldives for a continuous period of 12 years; he shall be deemed to have complied with the said requirement. if he has resided abroad, provided that the period is not more than 6 months, and has resided in the Maldives for a period amounting in the aggregate to more than 10 years.
  - d) he has an adequate knowledge with regard to the Maldivian Constitution.
  - e) he can orate in Dhivehi language; and has adequate edification.
  - f) he has not committed a political offence, offences where Hudud punishments are prescribed in Islamic Shariah, or unlawfully produced, distributed or traded drugs.
  - g) he is of distinguished service to the Maldives.
  - h) if he is a citizen of any country other than Maldives, provided he has renounced the citizenship of that country in accordance with the law therein force in that behalf and has officially notified in writing such renunciation to the Government of Maldives.

The President of the Maldives may, in his discretion, grant the citizenship of Maldives to any person, who makes or has made an application for registration as a citizen of Maldives, subject to his qualification of the provisions of this Act.

