



The Nationality Decree

9.8.1985/699

(As amended by 1995/223, 1996/1373, 1998/482)

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Upon the presentation of the Minister of the Interior, the following is provided under section 14 of the Nationality Act of 28 June 1968 (401/1968):

Section 1 **Application for nationality**

An application for nationality addressed to the Directorate of Immigration referred to in section 4 of the Nationality Act shall be drafted on a form complying with a confirmed model. The application shall be submitted to the police of the place of residence of the person in question. (26 June 1998/482)

An account of the proficiency of the applicant in Finnish or Swedish, his taxable income and property as well as of the payment of his taxes shall be annexed to the application. (30 December 1996/1373)

The police shall annex to the application the information on the applicant from the Population Information System, his nationality, his family relations and his residence in Finland as well as, if the criminal record contains entries on the persons referred to in the application, the relevant criminal record reports. (30 December 1996/1373)

Section 2 **(30 December 1996/1373)** **Statements concerning applications** **for nationality**

In its statement concerning an application for nationality, the police shall state the time since when the applicant has resided in Finland and whether the applicant has been leading a reputable life as well as other known facts which may affect the decision in the matter. The police shall send the documents pertaining to the application to the Directorate of Immigration.

The Directorate of Immigration may obtain a statement concerning the application from the security police. The security police may request the applicant to submit the information necessary for the application.

The Directorate of Immigration may obtain a statement concerning the application also from the social welfare authority of the place of residence of the applicant. In the statement the social welfare authority shall state if the livelihood of the applicant and his family can be regarded as secured as well as other known facts which may affect the decision in the matter.

Section 3 **Notification of nationality**

The notification referred to in the Nationality Act for the acquisition of nationality shall be drafted on a form complying with a confirmed model. The notification shall be submitted to the police of the place of residence, who shall send it to the Directorate of Immigration together with their statement. (26 June 1998/482)

The police shall annex to the notification the information from the Population Information System concerning the notifier, his nationality, his family relations and residence in Finland. (30 December 1996/1373)

Section 4 **Release from nationality**

An application concerning release from Finnish nationality shall be drafted on a form complying with a confirmed model and submitted to the Directorate of Immigration. (26 June 1998/482)

The application shall state the reason why the applicant wants to be released from Finnish nationality and it shall be accompanied by an account of the identity of the applicant, his nationalities, family relations and place of residence as well as information on the last municipality entered as his municipality of residence in the Population Information System. (30 December 1996/1373)

Section 5 **Application for retaining nationality**

An application addressed to the Directorate of Immigration referred to in section 8 b of the Nationality Act concerning the retaining of nationality shall be drafted on a form complying with a confirmed model and submitted to the Directorate of Immigration. (26 June 1998/482)

An identification certificate, a statement concerning the proficiency of the applicant in Finnish or Swedish as well as the other clarifications referred to in the form shall be appended to the application.

Section 6 **(Repealed by 1998/482)**

Section 7
Account of the custody of a child

Anyone who submits an application or notification to acquire Finnish nationality for a child or an application for release from Finnish nationality of a child shall present an account of the custody of the child.

When the child has more than one guardian and the application or notification has been submitted by only one of them, the applicant or notifier shall prove by certificate of service that the other guardians have been notified of the application or notification.

If the whereabouts of any of the guardians is unknown and it cannot reasonably be ascertained, the certificate of service is, however, not required.

Section 8
The documents and accounts required

When a prerequisite provided for in the Nationality Act for acquiring nationality is residence in the country, this shall be proved by a residence or other certificate.

The applicant or notifier shall, where necessary, prove that he has not acquired the nationality of a foreign State upon application or notification or through his express consent while residing abroad.

The applicant or notifier shall reliably, by use of documents, prove the facts on which the acquisition, retention or loss of nationality is based.

The authority shall have the right to require the applicant or the notifier to submit any other account required in order to decide the issue of nationality.

Section 9
**Submission of applications
and notifications abroad**

If the applicant or notifier resides abroad, the application referred to in sections 8 b, 9 and 13 and the notification referred to in sections 3 a and 3 b of the Nationality Act may be submitted abroad to the Finnish diplomatic mission or the office of the consul by career in question. They shall send the application or notification together with their statements and any necessary accounts to the Directorate of Immigration through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. (17 February 1995/223)

If a document referred to in the Nationality Act or this Decree or in the form complying with a confirmed model is not available abroad, the mission shall separately consider what other document or account shall correspond thereto and is reliable and sufficient.

Section 10
(26 June 1998/482)
Proof of fulfilment of a condition

The Directorate of Immigration shall give a certificate concerning the fulfilment of the condition referred to in section 4, paragraph 3 or section 9, paragraph 2 of the Nationality Act.

Section 11
Notifications by the authorities

When a person has acquired Finnish nationality upon notification or upon application or has lost Finnish nationality, the Directorate of Immigration shall notify the Population Registry thereof without delay. The same shall apply when a person is released from Finnish nationality or when a statement under section 13 of the Nationality Act has been issued. (17 February 1995/223)

If the Directorate of Immigration otherwise finds that the nationality of a person differs from that entered in the municipal register of places of residence or in the Population Register, the Population Registry shall be notified thereof. (17 February 1995/223)

The notifications referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also be sent to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the security police and the local police.

Section 12
(Repealed by 1998/482)

Section 13
Giving guidelines

The Ministry of the Interior shall, where necessary, give guidelines on the application of this Decree.

Section 14
Entry into force

This Decree enters into force on 1 September 1985. It repeals the Nationality Decree issued on 28 June 1968 (1968/402).

17 February 1995/223:

This Decree enters into force on 1 March 1995. Measures necessary for the implementation of the Act may be undertaken prior to its entry into force.

30 December 1996/1373:

This Decree enters into force on 15 January 1997.

This Decree shall also be applied to applications and notifications instituted before its entry into force.

This Decree enters into force on 15 August 1998.