

Becoming an Italian citizen

Documents and requirements necessary to obtain the Italian citizenship

Ways of getting the service

Declarations for obtaining, preserving, re-obtaining and renouncing nationality and oath service provided for by law are made with the Ufficiale di Stato Civile del Comune (Municipal Officer) where the declarant resides or intends to establish their own residence.

In the case of foreign residency, these declarations are made with the Diplomatic Authority or the Consular Authority. An Italian citizen who possesses, obtains or re-obtains a foreign nationality keeps Italian nationality, but they can renounce the nationality if they reside or establish residence abroad.

A foreigner, born in Italy, who is legally resident without interruption until they come of age, can become a citizen, if they declare their desire for citizenship before the Ufficiale di Stato Civile del Comune (Municipal Officer) in the municipality where they reside (art.4 L.91) before they turn 19.

Requirements

Italian nationality can be demanded by:

- a foreigner who is married with an Italian citizen and has resided in Italy for at least six months after marriage ceremony (art. 5 L.91).
- A foreigner who is and has been residing in Italy legally for 10 years (art. 9 - lett. f - L. 91).
- The stateless person who is and has been residing for at least 5 years in Italy legally (art. 9 - lett. e L.91).
- A citizen of European Community member state who is and has been residing for at least 4 years in Italy (art. 9 - lett. d L. 91).
- an adult foreigner adopted by Italian citizens who is and has been residing at least for 5 years in Italy after adoption (art. 9 - lett. b - L. 91).
- A foreigner who worked for the Italian State for at least 5 years, also abroad (art 9 - lett. e - L. 91).
- A foreigner who is and has residing for at least 3 years in the Italian territory legally and who has a father or mother or grandparent who was born an Italian citizen (art.9 - lett. a - L.91).

Time required

The request must be presented to the Italian Ministry of Interior through the Prefect's Office (Corso Matteotti n. 46). The Ministry has 720 days maximum to issue the nationality conferment decree, and directly notifies the applicant through the Prefect's Office. The applicant then has 6 months to take the citizenship oath before the Ufficiale di Stato Civile del Comune (Municipal Officer) in the municipality where they reside.

Documents to be presented

Nationality conferment decree from the President of the Republic or the Ministry of Interior.

Notes

The nationality request must be presented to the applicant's provincial Prefect's Office on a form released by the Prefect's Office.

The foreigner holding the nationality conferment decree notified by the Prefect's Office must present themselves within 6 months of the date of their notification at the Ufficiale di Stato Civile del Comune where they will take the citizenship oath as provided by law.

Reference laws

Law no. 91 of 05.02.1992 DPR. no. 572 of 12.10.1993

Ordinamento di Stato Civile D.P.R. 396/2000 D.M. 27/2/2001

Further information:

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