

Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

Date of Entry Into Force: 1995

Note: This is an unofficial translation.
The Law was adopted by the
National Assembly of Armenia
on 24 November 1995.

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Chapter 1: General provisions

Article 1: the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

The order of the acquisition and the termination of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is qualified by this Law. A person loses the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia following the termination of the citizenship.

Every person has a right to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in the manner prescribed by Law. Ethnic Armenians acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in the simplified way.

A citizen of the Republic of Armenia cannot be simultaneously a citizen of another State. *(deleted as per the amendments of 26.02.07)*

A citizen of the Republic of Armenia cannot be deprived of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia or of the right to change it *(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)* .

The changing of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is regulated by this Law and international treaties.

The rejection of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia or acquiring the citizenship of another state does not lead perfunctorily to the loss of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. *(amended as per the amendments of 26.02.07)*

Article 2: The legislation of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

The legislation of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia includes the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, international treaties, this Law and other adopted acts of legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

The norms qualified in the international treaties adopted by the Republic of Armenia prevail over the norms of this Law.

Article 3: The citizen of the Republic of Armenia

The citizens of the Republic of Armenia are the persons who have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia according to this Law.

The citizens of the Republic of Armenia are equal before the Law, irrespective of the basis of the acquisition of the citizenship, nationality, race, sex, language, religion, political and other opinions, social origin, estate or other position, have all rights, freedom and obligations qualified by the Constitution and laws.

Article 4: Documents accrediting the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

The documents accrediting the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia are: the identification card and passport of the citizen of the Republic of Armenia and, prior to age of 16 as well as the birth certificate or the certificate accrediting the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. *(amended as per the amendments of 30.11.2011 – will enter into force on 1 June 2012)*

Article 5: The interdiction of extraditing the citizen of the Republic of Armenia to another State

It is forbidden to extradite the citizen of the Republic of Armenia to another State, except for the cases envisaged by the international agreements ratified by the Republic of Armenia. *(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)*

Article 6: The preservation of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

The residence outside of the territory of the Republic of Armenia does not perfunctorily result in loss of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

The marriage of the citizen of the Republic of Armenia to a foreigner does not perfunctorily result in loss of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

The changing of the citizenship of one of the spouses does not cause a change of the citizenship of the other spouse.

Article 7: The protection of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia outside of the Republic

The citizens of the Republic of Armenia enjoy the protection and patronage of the Republic of Armenia.

The Republic of Armenia, its diplomatic and consular mission and the officials of the above are required to protect the rights of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia abroad as well as to take measures towards the restoration of the infringed rights of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia according to the legislation of the host country and international treaties.

Article 8: Foreign citizens and stateless persons

The person that having no citizenship of the Republic of Armenia holds a citizenship of another State is considered foreign citizen.

The person with no citizenship of the Republic of Armenia that resides in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and possesses no proof of the citizenship of another State is considered Stateless person.

The Republic of Armenia encourages obtaining citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by Stateless persons residing in the Republic of Armenia and does not hinder the acquisition by them the citizenship of another State.

The legal status of foreign citizen and stateless persons on the territory of the Republic of Armenia is regulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

Chapter 2: The acquisition of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 9: The basis of the acquisition of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

The citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is acquired:

- 1) through recognition of citizenship;
- 2) by birth;
- 3) through acceptance into citizenship;
- 4) through the restoration of the citizenship;
- 5) through acceptance into citizenship by group;
- 6) by the basis provided by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia;
- 7) in other cases provided by this Law.

Article 10: Recognition of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

The following persons are recognised as the citizens of the Republic of Armenia:

- 1) Citizens of the former Arm. SSR permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, who until the enactment of the Constitution has not acquired the citizenship of the another State or has rejected that citizenship within one year from the day of the enactment of this Law;
- 2) Stateless persons or former citizens of other USSR republics who are not foreign citizens permanently residing in the RA and before 31 December 2012 have applied for the acquisition of the RA citizenship (*amended as per the amendments of 06.04.10*)
- 3) Ethnic Armenian citizens of the former Arm. SSR, who live out side the Republic of Armenia and have not acquired the citizenship of another country (*amended on 08.12.2011*).

Article 11: The citizenship of a child born from the citizens of the Republic of Armenia

The child, whose parents hold the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia at the moment of his/her birth, acquires the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia regardless of the place of the birth.

The child, whose one parent holds the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia at the moment of his/her birth, while the other parent unknown or is a stateless person, acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

In a case when one of the parents holds the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia at the moment of child's birth and the other parent is a foreign citizen, the determination of the child's citizenship based on a written consent of both parents.

In the cases of the absence of such consent the child acquires the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, if he/she was born on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, or if he/she should become a stateless person unless he/she acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, or if the parents permanently reside on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 12: The citizenship of the child of Stateless person

The child of the Stateless persons, who was born on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 13: Acceptance into the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

1. Any person 18 years of age, capable of working, residing (staying) in another state or residing (staying) legally in the Republic of Armenia (*amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011*) that holds no citizenship of the Republic of Armenia can apply to be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, if

- 1) he/she has resided on the territory of the Republic of Armenia in a manner prescribed by Law for the last 3 years,
- 2) is proficient in the Armenian language
- 3) is familiar with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

2. A person not holding Armenian citizenship can be granted Armenian citizenship without fulfilling the requirements of points 1) and 2) of section 1 of this article if

- 1) is married to a citizen of the Republic of Armenia or has a child who is an Armenian citizen.
- 2) has parents or at least one parent that had held citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in the past or had been born on the territory of the Republic of Armenia and had applied for the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia within 3 years from becoming 18 years of age;
- 3) is Armenian by his origin, in the meaning of having Armenian ancestors. *(this point is deleted as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)*
- 4) has given up Armenian citizenship after January 1st 1995 based on application.

3. A person not holding citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, who has Armenian ethnicity, can receive citizenship of the Republic of Armenia without fulfilling the requirements of points 1, 2 and 3 of the first part of this article. *(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)*

4. The citizenship of the Republic of Armenia can be granted without the keeping the provisions points a. b. and c. of section 1 as well as section 2 of this article to the persons who have provided exceptional services to the Republic of Armenia.

5. The person requesting Armenian citizenship shall present the application in person to the relevant body designated by the Government of the republic of Armenia.

6. The citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is accepted by the decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia of the granting of the citizenship.

7. The petition to be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia can be rejected, if the applicant violates by his/her activities state and social security, public order, protection of the public health and traditions or rights, freedoms, dignity and good reputation of the others. The rejection decision need not be justified.

8. The person accepting the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia administers the following oath: " I, (name, surname) becoming the citizen of the Republic of Armenia, swear to be loyal to the Republic of Armenia, to comply with the Constitution and the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, to defend the independence and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia. I am obliged to respect the State language, the national culture and the traditions of the Republic of Armenia."

9. The person accepting the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is to sign the text of the oath.

10. The person accepting the Armenian citizenship receives the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia. *(deleted as per the amendments of 19.06.2013)*

13.1. Dual citizenship *(added as per the amendments of 26.02.07)*

1. A person holding more than one citizenship is considered a dual citizen.
2. A person having a citizenship of another state (countries) beside the Armenian citizenship is considered dual citizen of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The dual citizen of the Republic of Armenia is recognized only as a citizen of the republic of Armenia for the Republic of Armenia. This norm also covers those Armenian citizens who after January 1st 1995 have accepted or have been granted the citizenship of another state without denouncing Armenian citizenship according to the regulations as well as those who have denounced their Armenian citizenship one sidedly.
4. The dual citizen of the Republic of Armenia has all the rights prescribed to the citizens of the Republic of Armenia and carries all the duties and responsibilities prescribed for the citizens of the

Republic of Armenia with the exception of the cases provided by international treaties of the Republic of Armenia or by the law.

5. A citizen of the Republic of Armenia in case acquires a citizenship of another state shall inform the body designated by the Government of the Republic of Armenia about it in a manner prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in a one month period.
6. Violation of the requirements of this article will lead to consequences prescribed by the law.

Article 14: Restoration of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

The person who has lost the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia may, upon his/her request, have it restored, if there are no conditions prescribed by point 7 of Article 13 of this Law and if his/her citizenship has not been ceased on the basis of point 2 of Article 23 of this Law.. *(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)*

Article 15: The acceptance into the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by the group

The Acceptance into the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by the group in the cases of repatriation or other cases prescribed by Law is implemented by the decree of the President of the Republic.

Chapter 3: The citizenship of child in cases of acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia or losing citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by parents, or adoption. *(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)*

Article 16: The citizenship of child in case of acquisition by the parents of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia *(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)*

1. Child whose parents have acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

2. If one of the parents has acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, while the other is a foreign citizen or Stateless person, their child acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, if the written consent of parents exists, or if child resides on the territory of the Republic of Armenia and consent of the parent who holds the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia exists.

3. Child of foreign citizens who acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, irregardless of the circumstance of having citizenship of other state, acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in compliance with the procedure envisaged by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia on the basis of application submitted for receiving passport of a citizen of the Republic of Armenia.

In cases provided by points 1-3 of this Article, child between 14-18 year old gives his/her written consent for acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)

Article 17: The citizenship of child in case of loss by parents of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia *(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)*

The child, whose parents have lost the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, loses citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, if he/she acquired the citizenship of another State.

If one of the parents has lost citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, while the other is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia their child loses the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, if consent of his/her parents exists or if the child resides outside the territory of the Republic of Armenia and consent of the parent who holds citizenship of the Republic of Armenia exists.

In cases provided by points 1 and 2 of this Article, child between 14-18 year old loses his/her citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in case his/her written consent exists, if the child has no unsettled obligations towards the state as envisaged by the Republic of Armenia Law On Military Service.

(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)

Article 18: The citizenship of child in case of adoption

The child adopted by citizens of the Republic of Armenia acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

If one of the adopting spouses is a stateless person, while the other is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia the child acquires the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

If one of the adopting spouses is a foreign citizen, while the other is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia the child acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, provided:

- 1) the consent of the spouses exists;
- 2) the child resides in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and consent of the parent who holds citizenship of the Republic of Armenia exists;
- 3) the child is a person without citizenship or may become a stateless person.

Article 19: The preservation of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in case of adoption

The child who holds citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and is adopted by foreign citizens or married couple. Where one of the spouses is a foreign citizen and the other is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, retains its citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. In such a case child can relinquish its citizenship of the Republic of Armenia only through an application by his/her adopting parents.

The child who holds the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and is adopted by Stateless persons or a married couple. Where one of the spouses is without citizenship and the other is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, retains citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 20: The citizenship of a child whose parents are unknown

The child on the territory of the Republic of Armenia whose parents are unknown, is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia. In case of discovery of at least one of the parents or a trustee, the citizenship can be changed according to this Law.

Article 21: The preservation of the citizenship of a child who is in custody or guardianship

The child holding the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, who is in custody or guardianship by the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, retains the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, regardless of his/her parents giving up the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. In such a case the child can relinquish its citizenship of the Republic of Armenia through an application of his/her parents in they were not deprived from their parents rights

Article 22: The necessity of the child's consent in changing his/her citizenship

In case of changing of the citizenship by the parent the children between 14 - 18 years of age change their citizenship in the manner prescribed by this Law, provided the consent of child exists.

(this article is deleted as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)

Chapter 4: cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

Article 23: Cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia *(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)*

The citizenship of the Republic of Armenia ceases:

- 1) in cases of changing of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia;
- 2) in cases of acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia on the basis of false documents and false data;
- 3) in cases provided for by the international agreements of the Republic of Armenia.

(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)

Article 24: Changing of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

Any citizen of the Republic of Armenia, who is 18 years of age, can change the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by the giving up the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and acquisition of the citizenship of another state.

The request for giving up of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia may be rejected, if the person giving up the citizenship:

- 1) is indicted;
- 2) is convicted by the decision or sentence of court and has pending punishment;
- 3) if the giving up contravenes with the State security interests of the Republic of Armenia;
- 4) has unsettled obligations towards the state. *(amended as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)*

Article 25: Loss of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

The citizenship of the Republic of Armenia may be considered lost:

- 1) if the person has acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by the Article 13 of this Law, has been a permanent resident abroad and has failed to undergo consular registration for 7 years without reasonable justification;
- 2) if the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia has been acquired through false information or documents;
- 3) if the person has acquired citizenship of a State, with which the Republic of Armenia has no agreement of the dual citizenship;

(this article is deleted as per the amendments of 08.12.2011)

Chapter 5: Bodies regulated the issues of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

Article 26: The President of the Republic of Armenia.

The President of the Republic of Armenia takes decisions by his decrees on the issues of the acquisition of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, restoration of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, the

acceptance into the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by the group, cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, determines the procedure of consideration of applications concerning the citizenship.

Article 27: The Committee of the matters of citizenship at the President's Office

The Committee on matters of citizenship at the President's office is appointed by the President. The regulations of the Committee of the matters of the citizenship is approved by the President of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 28: The Government

The Government:

- 1) ensures the conformity of the normative acts of the government, ministries and other governmental agencies to this Law;
- 2) defines the procedure of the registration of the documents accrediting the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and the transference of the citizens;
- 3) defines the list of the necessary documents of the acquisition and cessation of the citizenship;
- 4) adopts the decisions ensuring the enactment of this Law.

The relevant Bodies of the Government:

- 1) receives application and other documents concerning the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, verifies their authenticity and substantiality;
- 2) transfers the applications, mediation and other such documents along with their judgement to the President of the Republic of Armenia;
- 3) transfers the suggestions of the cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia to the President of the Republic of Armenia;
- 4) conducts the registration of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia;
- 5) determines according to this Law the belongings to the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia of persons residing on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Chapter 6: The procedure of the causes relating the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 29: The proceedings on the presentation and consideration of applications, mediations concerning the issues of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

The written form of applications, mediations concerning citizenship is mandatory.

The applications concerning the issues of the citizenship are acted upon **6 months**. In the case of rejection the application is acted again after one year of the day of rejection according to the proceedings provided by this Article. (amended as per amendments of 19.06.2013)

_Information on RA citizenship Applications, Mediations, their procedure, data on persons citizenship can be shared with individuals, organisations, state and administrative authorities, also may be transferred to foreign states only if the applicant or the person granted RA citizenship so agrees or if the law or international treaty so provides.

**The responsibility to receive the agreement mentioned in the 3rd para. of this article lays upon the entity which wants to access this type of information.
(added as per amendments of 19.06.2013)**

Article 30: Appeals of illegal actions of the officials on the issues of citizenship

Rejection of accepting applications concerning citizenship by officials, violation of the terms of action on them as well as other illegal actions can be appealed to the court.