

ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP

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So you want to get Italian Citizenship?

- How can you get Citizenship
 - Reacquisition of Italian Citizenship
 - Citizenship by Marriage
 - Citizenship through ancestors

General Requirements

- You are required to fill out all forms that pertain to your category.
- You must present original documents and one set of photocopies.
- All certificates must be in "long form" or extended form which can be obtained at your local Vital Statistics Office of the State in which the birth/marriage/death took place. Certificates reporting only the "County" of birth cannot be accepted.
- U.S. birth/marriage/death records must bear an Apostille of the Secretary of State of the State where the document was issued. Petition for naturalization and/or no record certificates must be in certified copy.
- All certificates must be submitted with the official translation in Italian language except the Apostille.
- Documents that do not need to be translated are the U.S. Certificates of Naturalization and the letter of no naturalization records issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- Some US vital record offices may require applicants to provide a letter of the Consulate stating a reason for the request of certificates relevant to the applicants' ancestors. We regret to inform you that we cannot authorize any American Government Office to issue such records. We can only suggest that you present a copy of this information kit to motivate your request.

Reacquisition of Citizenship

- According to Italian law individuals born in Italy who automatically lost Italian citizenship by acquiring U.S. citizenship before August 16th 1992 are eligible, under certain conditions, for reacquisition of Italian citizenship.
- There are various documents required.
 - proof of residency in the jurisdiction of this Consular Office (driver's licence and utility bill such as electricity or phone bill).
 - Italian birth certificate;
 - marriage certificate and divorce decree, if applicable (if they occurred in the United States, please consult the website under Vital Records for requirements);
 - copy of previous Italian passport (if available);
 - certificate of naturalization (original plus a photocopy);
 - U.S. passport or valid photo ID;

Citizenship by Marriage

- The foreign spouse of an Italian citizen may apply for Italian citizenship after being married for 2 years, if they reside in Italy, and to the Italian Consulate after being married for 3 years if they reside outside of Italy.
The above periods are reduced by half if the spouses have biological or adopted children.
Two basic requirements to be met prior to submitting the application are:
 - the marriage must have already been registered at the Town Hall in Italy. The registration number must be indicated in the application form.
 - the Italian spouse must be registered at the Consulate as an Italian Citizen Residing Abroad (A.I.R.E.).

Citizenship by Marriage *(cont'd)*

- **Documents provided by the applicant**
 - valid passport of both spouses;
 - proof of residency for the foreign spouse: if a US national, the foreign spouse is required to show proof of residency (driver's licence, utility bill or bank statement); for all other nationalities, the foreign spouse is required to show proof of legal residence in the United States (Green Card, Visa or other).
- Birth certificates issued in countries other than the U.S.A. must comply with the local regulations on the legalization of documents. They must be translated into Italian and the translation certified by the Italian Consulate/Embassy in the country where the document was issued or by other competent office (such a local court). For further information, please visit the [Italian consular network](#).
For applicants born in the USA the birth certificate must be in Long Form legalized with Apostille. For more information on this, please see the Vital Records section on this website;
 - Criminal records from the Central Police Office of each US State/Country where the foreign spouse resided after the age of 14
- **Documents provided by the Italian Consulate**
 - certificate of citizenship for the Italian spouse;
 - stato di famiglia.

Citizenship through ancestors

- If you are resident within the jurisdiction of the Italian Consulate in New York: the Municipality of New York City, the State of New York, the State of Connecticut and the British Territories of Bermuda Islands, you may apply for Italian citizenship at the Consulate General of Italy in New York.
- If you were born in the United States you may also be considered an Italian citizen if any one of the situations listed below pertains to you:
 - **Category 1)** your father was an Italian citizen at the time of your birth and you never renounced your right to Italian citizenship;
 - **Category 2)** your mother was an Italian citizen at the time of your birth, you were born after January 1, 1948, and you never renounced your right to Italian citizenship;
 - **Category 3)** your father was born in the United States or a Country other than Italy, your paternal grandfather was an Italian citizen at the time of your father's birth, neither you nor your father ever renounced your right to the Italian citizenship;
 - **Category 4)** your mother was born in the United States or a Country other than Italy, your maternal grandfather was an Italian citizen at the time of your mother's birth, you were born after January 1, 1948 and neither you nor your mother ever renounced your right to Italian citizenship;
 - **Category 5)** your paternal or maternal grandparents were born in the United States from Italian parents and they never renounced their right to Italian citizenship. (Please note: the Italian mother can transfer her Italian citizenship only to children born after 01/01/1948).

Category 1

- If **category 1** applies to you, the following documents are required, all in original: (FORM 1)
- A) YOUR FATHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- Write to the "Comune" where your father was born, request a birth certificate in the form of "**estratto dell'atto di nascita**" (showing his father's and mother's names). You can find the address at: www.comuni-italiani.it.
- B) YOUR MOTHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- Same as above. If instead she was born in the U.S.A., the "long form" birth certificate legalized with the "Apostille" is required.
- C) YOUR PARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- Same as above. If instead the marriage took place in the U.S.A., you must obtain a long/extended form marriage certificate legalized with the Apostille.
- if applicable, you are required to provide the final judgement of divorce or, in case of death of spouse, the certificate of death.
- D) CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION
 - can be requested from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Category 1 (cont'd)

- 1. **if your father/mother became a U.S. citizen**, you must provide a certified copy of the U.S. certificate of naturalization showing full name, place of birth and date of birth, date of naturalization, certificate number. You may also be required to present a certified copy of petition for naturalization and oath of allegiance;
- 2. **if he/she never became a US citizen**, you must provide a) , b) and c):
 - a) an Official statement issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, specifying that he/she never became a U.S. citizen. Such document must show, as confirmation, the full name with all aliases, the date and place of birth.
 - b) you are also required to do an extensive search with the National Archives (www.nara.gov). The National Archives will have to provide a letter of confirmation which contains full name with all aliases, the date and place of birth.
 - c) census record may provide additional information relevant to your case: Immigration Records, Naturalization Records, Ship Passenger Lists, Military records, U.S. Passport applications, Voter Lists Record and other (www.census.org);
- If available, please provide Italian passport and Alien Registration Card;
- E) YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE must be submitted in "long form", legalized with the [Apostille](#) from the Secretary of State of the State in which it was issued.
- F) YOUR DECLARATION THAT YOU NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BEFORE ANY ITALIAN AUTHORITY, listing all your places of residence and relative years. Your signature must be notarized. Copy of your passport and proof of residence (driver licence and utility bills ect.) are requested. Use FORM 2
- G) YOUR FATHER'S/MOTHER'S DEATH CERTIFICATE, if applicable, is to be submitted in the long form format and legalized with Apostille.
- **If your father/mother became a naturalized U.S. citizen before your birth, you are not eligible for Italian citizenship**

Category 2 & 3

- **If your father/mother became a naturalized U.S. citizen before your birth, you are not eligible for Italian citizenship**
- If **category 2** applies to you, you must follow the same instructions as indicated in category 1), but in this case the documents will be regarding your mother;
- If **category 3** applies to you, the following documents are required: (FORM 1)
- YOUR PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS' BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- YOUR PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- YOUR PATERNAL GRANDFATHER'S CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION AND
- PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION
- YOUR PARENTS' BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- YOUR PARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- YOUR DECLARATION THAT YOU NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BEFORE ANY ITALIAN AUTHORITY, listing all your places of residence and relative years. Your signature must be notarized. Copy of your passport and proof of residence (driver licence and utility bills) are requested.
- DECLARATION THAT YOUR FATHER NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BEFORE ANY ITALIAN AUTHORITY, listing all places of residence and relative years.
- If living use FORM 3, if deceased use FORM 4.
- ANY PERTINENT DEATH CERTIFICATE/S RELATED TO ITALIAN ASCENDENTS.
- **If your paternal grandfather became a naturalized U.S. citizen before your father's birth, you are not eligible for Italian citizenship**

Category 4

- If **category 4** applies to you, the following documents are required: (FORM 1)
- YOUR MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS' BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- YOUR MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- YOUR MATERNAL GRANDFATHER'S CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION AND PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION
- YOUR PARENTS' BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- YOUR PARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- YOUR DECLARATION THAT YOU NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BEFORE ANY ITALIAN AUTHORITY, listing all your places of residence and relative years. Your signature must be notarized. Copy of your passport and proof of residence (driver licence and utility bills ect.) are requested.
- DECLARATION THAT YOUR MOTHER NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BEFORE ANY ITALIAN AUTHORITY, listing all places of residence and relative years . If living use FORM 3, if deceased use FORM 4;
- ANY PERTINENT DEATH CERTIFICATE/S RELATED TO THE ITALIAN ASCENDANTS
- **If your maternal grandfather became a naturalized U.S. citizen before your mother's birth, you are not eligible for Italian citizenship**

Category 5

- If **category 5** applies to you, the following documents are required: (FORM 1)
- YOUR PATERNAL OR MATERNAL GREAT GRANDPARENTS' BIRTH CERTIFICATE (from Italy)
- YOUR PATERNAL OR MATERNAL GREAT GRANDPARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- YOUR PATERNAL OR MATERNAL GREAT GRANDFATHERS' CERTIFICATE OF
- NATURALIZATION AND PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION
- YOUR PATERNAL/MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS' BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- YOUR PATERNAL/MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- YOUR PATERNAL/MATERNAL PARENTS' BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- YOUR PATERNAL/MATERNAL PARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
- YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- YOUR DECLARATION THAT YOU NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BEFORE
- ANY ITALIAN AUTHORITY, listing all your places of residence and relative years. Your signature must be notarized. Copy of your passport and proof of residence (driver licence and utility bills ect.) are requested. Use FORM 2
- DECLARATION THAT YOUR PATERNAL/MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BEFORE ANY ITALIAN AUTHORITY, listing all places of residence and relative years. If living use FORM 3, if deceased use FORM 4
- DECLARATION THAT YOUR FATHER/MOTHER NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BEFORE ANY ITALIAN AUTHORITY, listing all places of residence and relative years.
- If living use FORM 3, if deceased use FORM 4
- ANY PERTINENT DEATH CERTIFICATE/S RELATED TO THE ITALIAN ASCENDANTS.
- **If your great grandfather became a naturalized U.S. citizen before your grandfather or grandmother's birth, you are not eligible for Italian citizenship.**