

Italian Citizenship



italian citizenship is given by birth to...
you may become an Italian citizen if...
if you are the spouse of an Italian citizen
if you are "naturalised"

Permit of Stay	Expulsion
Housing	Driving in Italy
Health and Medical Assistance	Education
Justice	Italian Citizenship

L'elaborazione del testo, anche se curata con scrupolosa attenzione, non può comportare specifiche responsabilità per eventuali errori o inesattezze.

WebDesign
Luca Battista
lucabattista@usa.net

Law n. 91 of February 5th 1992, D.P.R. n. 572 of October 12th 1993 (Directive enacting Law n. 91/93), D.P.R. n. 362 of April 18th 1994 (Directive regarding the procedures for acquiring citizenship)

Italian citizenship is given by birth to:

1. a child of an Italian mother or father;
2. a child born in Italy to unknown or stateless parents;
3. a child born in Italy to non-Italian parents, as long as they are from a country where the law does not impose adopting the citizenship of the parents (in the case a child is born to non-Italian parents who come from a country imposing citizenship of the parents, the child **CANNOT ACQUIRE ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP** even by declaring his desire or by administration formalities);
4. a child of unknown parents found in Italy without proof of other citizenship.



[back](#)

You may become an Italian citizen:

1) if your mother or father or one of your grandparents are or were citizens by birth.

To do so, however, requires meeting one of the following conditions:

- the required Italian military service and before doing so declare your intention to acquire Italian citizenship;
- that you be hired as an employee by the Italian State, in Italy or abroad, and before during so declare your intention to acquire Italian citizenship;
- that you reside legally in Italy for at least without interruption prior to begin 18 and that from one year from becoming 18 you declare your intention to acquire Italian citizenship.

The official declaration of your intention must be made before a Registrar. You will need the following documents: **a)** a birth certificate; **b)** a certificate of Italian citizenship by birth of your mother, father or one of your grandparents; **c)** a residency certificate (if required).

2) if you were born in Italy and have resided here legally without interruptions until the age of 18 and you declare your intention to acquire Italian citizenship within one year from becoming 18.

The official declaration of your intention must be made before a Registrar. You will need the following documents: **a)** birth certificate; **b)** a residency certificate.

[back](#)

3) if you are the spouse of an Italian citizen and have resided legally in Italy for at least six months or you have been married for three years (and there has been no legal divorce or annulment and you are not in the process of separating).

The application citizenship must be presented in five copies (the original on official 20.000 lira revenue stamped paper and four photocopies) to the Prefect of your area, or to the Italian Consulate authorities in your country of origin and should be addressed to the Ministry of Interior and include:

a) a birth certificate; **b)** a residency certificate; **c)** a marriage certificate issued by an Italian municipal office where the marriage has been registered and/or transcribed; **d)** a certificate of family status; **e)** general certificate of criminal records office issued by the Public Prosecutor's office of the Tribunal; **f)** certificate of pending suits issued by the Public Prosecutor's office of the Tribunal and by the magistrate's court; **g)** certificate of Italian citizenship of your spouse; **h)** notarised photocopy of your valid permit of stay; **i)** photocopies of all the pages of your passport notarised by a notary or your consulate; **j)** a police records certificate issued by your country of origin that has been translated and legalised by the Italian Consular authorities abroad; **k)** a formal request made to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who will evaluate your application for acquiring citizenship. **PLEASE NOTE:** the request should not be made directly to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs but made through the diplomatic authorities of your country in Italy; **l)** a notarised photocopy of your last income tax return or, in the absence of such a document, a notarised statement declaring that the photocopy presented conforms to that presented to the Tax Authorities (should this photocopy be unavailable, you may present a notarised declaration in which you indicate the nature and total amount of your income).



ATTENTION: you cannot acquire Italian citizenship through marriage if:

- a)** you have been found guilty of committing a crime against the Italian State either within Italy or abroad or you have been found guilty of committing a crime against political rights of a citizen;
- b)** you have been found guilty of committing a premeditated crime for which the law foresees a minimum three years jail sentence;
- c)** you have been found guilty of a non political crime for which you have been sentenced to more than one year in jail by a foreign country;

d) if there exists hard evidence against you for reason related to national security.

Italian citizenship by marriage is conferred by decree of the Ministry of the Interior and must be registered by the National Audit Court.



[back](#)

4) if you are "naturalised".

The request for Italian citizenship by naturalisation can be made in one of the following cases:

1. your father, mother or one of your grandparents are or were Italian citizens by birth, or were they themselves born in Italy; in both cases it is necessary that you have been residing in Italy at least three years; **2.** if you have worked for the Italian State for a period of at least five years either in Italy or abroad; **3.** if you are of age and have been adopted by an Italian citizen and you have lived in Italy legally for at least five years since the adoption; **4.** if you are stateless or a refugee and have lived in Italy for at least five years; **5.** if you have lived legally in Italy for at least ten years; **6.** if you are a citizen of a European Community member state and have lived in Italy for at least four years. Your application should be presented in revenue stamped paper of 20.000 lira to the Prefecture of your Province of residence and be addressed to the President of the Republic.

You need the following documents: **a)** a birth certificate; **b)** a family status certificate; **c)** police record's certificate from your country of origin; **d)** a residence certificate from the registry office attesting to the cumulative number of years that you have resided in Italy, be it five or ten years (or revenue stamped paper of 20.000 lira); **e)** a copy of your permit of stay that conforms with the original issued by the Questura; **f)** certificate on revenue stamped paper of 20.000 lira from the District offices of the Inland Revenue Office relative to your tax declaration forms; **g)** general certificate from the judicial register; **h)** certificates of pending suits issued by the Public Prosecutor's office of the Tribunal and by the magistrate's court; **i)** notarised copy of your passport (you must provide an official certified translation in Italian made by the diplomatic authorities or by an official translator). Citizenship by "naturalisation" is conferred by decree of the President of the Republic following a hearing by the Council of State and a proposal by the Ministry of the Interior. The decree must be registered with the National Audit Court. The decree has no value if the person to whom it refers does not give, within six months of the notification of the decree itself, a sworn oath to be faithful to the Republic and to observe the Constitution and the laws of the State.



5) if you are the minor son or daughter of someone who has acquired or re-acquired citizenship and you live with one of your parents at the time that he or she is granted or re-granted citizenship, and you meet the following conditions:

- cohabitation is stable and effective;

- cohabitation is attested to by the family status certificate or equivalent documentation.

ATTENTION: for the purposes of acquiring Italian citizenship, "legal resident" refers to anyone who has adhered to the rules and regulations for entrance into Italy and officially is registered with the registry office (permit of stay, etc.) **MOREOVER:** all documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by a sworn translation copied on revenue stamped paper of 20.000 lira.



[back](#)