

PAKISTANI CITIZENSHIP LAW

1. The following summary of the main provisions of Pakistani citizenship law reflects the agreed outcome of discussions which the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office have had with the Pakistan Government. It does not aim to be, nor should be taken as, definitive. Only the Pakistani authorities can provide definitive advice on their citizenship law. However the information should normally be sufficient to determine an applicant's eligibility for British nationality where this turns on his/her possession, or not, of Pakistani citizenship.
2. The principal legislation is the **Pakistan Citizenship Act 1951**, as amended by the **Pakistan Citizenship (Amendment) Act 1952**, the **Pakistan Citizenship (Amendment) Act 1972**, the **Pakistan Citizenship (Amendment) Act 1973**, the **Pakistan Citizenship (Second Amendment) Act 1973** and the **Pakistan Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance 2000**.
3. **Pakistani citizenship by birth**
 - 3.1 Under the **1951 Act**, as originally in force, any person born in Pakistan after commencement is a citizen of Pakistan.
4. **Pakistani citizenship by descent**
 - 4.1 A person born outside Pakistan before 18 April 2000 can normally only be a citizen of Pakistan by descent if the father was a citizen of Pakistan otherwise than by descent.

4.2 However, a person born outside Pakistan to a father who, at the time of the birth, was a citizen of Pakistan by descent is also a citizen of Pakistan by descent if:

- the birth is registered at a Pakistani Consulate or High Commission abroad; or
- the father was in Pakistan Government service at the time of the birth

4.3 A person born outside Pakistan on or after 18 April 2000 is a citizen of Pakistan by descent as per 4.1 or 4.2 above if either parent is a citizen of Pakistan.

5. **Renunciation**

5.1 Under the **1951 Act**, as amended by the **1972 Act**, a citizen of Pakistan who is also (or is about to become) a citizen of another country can make a declaration of renunciation of Pakistani citizenship.

6. **Dual nationality**

6.1 Dual nationality is not permitted. A citizen of Pakistan who is, at the same time, a citizen of some other country ceases to be a citizen of Pakistan unless that other citizenship is renounced (but see the section on minors at section 8 below).

6.2 There is an exception for people holding certain other nationalities, including British citizenship, but this exception does not extend to any of the other forms of British nationality.

6.3 If, despite the prohibition on dual nationality, an applicant has been issued with a passport or other formal document describing him as a citizen of Pakistan, it should not be assumed that it has been issued incorrectly. In such cases, we should write to the applicant/agent along the lines explained in paragraph 4.5 of Annex D

7. **Female citizens of Pakistan**

7.1 If a Pakistani woman marries a foreigner and acquires his nationality, her Pakistani citizenship is withdrawn but may be restored if the marriage comes to an end and she renounces her husband's nationality.

8. **Minors**

8.1 Minors (i.e. persons under 21 years of age) who qualify for Pakistani citizenship are exempt from the ban on dual nationality if they acquire another citizenship as long as their fathers do not cease to be citizens of Pakistan:

- automatically as a result of acquiring a second citizenship; or
- due to renunciation of Pakistani citizenship

8.2 However, if the father ceases to be a citizen of Pakistan, the minor automatically loses Pakistani citizenship at the same time.