

**THE LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ON CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

*Adopted 06.11.1995*

- [Chapter 1 General provisions](#)
- [Chapter 2 Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia](#)
- [Chapter 3 Citizenship of a Child in Case of Change of Citizenship of Parents or Adoption](#)
- [Chapter 4 Termination of Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia](#)
- [Chapter 5 Bodies regulating citizenship issues of the Republic of Armenia](#)
- [Chapter 6 Proceedings on Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia](#)

**CHAPTER 1.**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

***Article 1. Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

The procedure for acquiring and terminating citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is established by this law. A person loses citizenship of the Republic of Armenia as a result of terminating citizenship.

Every person has the right to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the procedure established by law. Armenians by nationality acquire citizenship of the Republic of Armenia through a simplified procedure.

A citizen of the Republic of Armenia cannot simultaneously be a citizen of another state.

A citizen of the Republic of Armenia may not be deprived of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia or the right to change it, except in cases provided for by this Law.

Changing citizenship is regulated by this law and international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia does not in itself lead to the loss of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

***Article 2. Legislation on Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

The legislation on citizenship of the Republic of Armenia consists of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, international treaties of the Republic of Armenia, this law and other legislative acts of the Republic of Armenia.

If ratified international treaties of the Republic of Armenia establish norms other than those provided for by this Law, the norms of the international treaty shall apply.

***Article 3. Citizen of the Republic of Armenia***

Citizens of the Republic of Armenia are persons who have acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with this law.

Citizens of the Republic of Armenia are equal before the law, regardless of the grounds for acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, nationality, race, gender, language, religion, political or other views, social origin, property or other status, and have all the rights, freedoms and obligations defined by the Constitution and laws.

***Article 4. Documents confirming citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

The documents confirming citizenship of the Republic of Armenia are the passport of a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, and up to the age of 16 - the birth certificate or the certificate confirming citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

***Article 5. Inadmissibility of extradition of a citizen of the Republic of Armenia to another state***

The extradition of a citizen of the Republic of Armenia to another state is prohibited.

***Article 6. Preservation of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

Residing outside the Republic of Armenia does not in itself lead to the termination of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

The marriage of a citizen of the Republic of Armenia to a foreign citizen does not in itself result in a change of citizenship.

Changing the citizenship of one spouse does not in itself lead to a change in the citizenship of the other spouse.

***Article 7. Protection of citizens of the Republic of Armenia outside the Republic***

Citizens of the Republic of Armenia outside the Republic enjoy the protection and patronage of the Republic of Armenia.

The Republic of Armenia, its diplomatic and consular representations and their officials are obliged to protect the rights of citizens of the Republic of Armenia residing in other states, as well as to take measures to restore their violated rights in accordance with the legislation of those states and international treaties.

***Article 8. Foreign citizens and stateless persons***

A foreign citizen is considered a person who does not have citizenship of the Republic of Armenia but has the citizenship of another state.

A person residing in the Republic of Armenia who does not have citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and who does not have proof of citizenship of another state is considered a stateless person.

The Republic of Armenia encourages the acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by stateless persons residing in the Republic of Armenia and does not impede their acquisition of citizenship of another state.

The legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Republic of Armenia is regulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

## CHAPTER 2.

### ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

#### ***Article 9. Grounds for acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is acquired by:

- 1) by recognition of citizenship;
- 2) by birth.
- 3) through obtaining citizenship;
- 4) through the restoration of citizenship;
- 5) through group acquisition of citizenship;
- 6) on the grounds provided for by international treaties of the Republic of Armenia;
- 7) on other grounds provided for by this law.

#### ***Article 10. Recognition of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

The following are recognized as citizens of the Republic of Armenia:

- 1) Citizens of the former Armenian SSR permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia who have not acquired citizenship of another state before the entry into force of the Constitution or have renounced it within one year from the date of entry into force of this Law;
- 2) stateless persons who have permanently resided in the Republic of Armenia for the last three years prior to the date of entry into force of this Law, or citizens of other republics of the former USSR who are not foreign citizens, who apply to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Armenia between the date of entry into force of this Law and December 31, 1998;
- 3) Citizens of the former Armenian SSR residing outside the Republic of Armenia after September 21, 1991, who have not acquired the citizenship of another state, as well as citizens of the former Armenian SSR of Armenian origin residing outside Armenia before that and who have not acquired the citizenship of another state and who are under consular registration before the entry into force of this law.

#### ***Article 11. Citizenship of a child born to citizens of the Republic of Armenia***

A child whose parents are citizens of the Republic of Armenia at the time of his or her birth acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, regardless of the place of birth.

A child, one of whose parents is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia at the time of his or her birth, and the other is unknown or a stateless person, acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

In the event that one of the parents is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia at the time of the child's birth, and the other is a foreign citizen, the child's citizenship is determined by the written consent of the parents.

In the absence of consent, the child acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia if he/she was born in the Republic of Armenia or if, in the event of not acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, he/she becomes a stateless person, or if the parents permanently reside in the Republic of Armenia.

### ***Article 12. Citizenship of the child of stateless persons***

A child born in the Republic of Armenia, whose parents are stateless persons, acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

### ***Article 13. Obtaining citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

Any person who has reached the age of 18 and does not hold citizenship of the Republic of Armenia may apply for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia if he or she has permanently resided in the Republic of Armenia for the past three years, can communicate in the Armenian language, and is familiar with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, in accordance with the procedure established by law.

Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is obtained by a decree of the President of the Republic on granting citizenship.

A person who does not have citizenship of the Republic of Armenia shall obtain citizenship of the Republic of Armenia without observing the period of residence specified in Part One of this Article:

- 1) who is married to a citizen of the Republic of Armenia or has a child, father or mother who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia;
- 2) whose parents or one of them previously had Armenian citizenship

Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia or was born in the Republic of Armenia and who applied for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia within three years after reaching the age of 18.

- 3) who is of Armenian origin and has settled in the Republic of Armenia.

An application for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia shall be rejected if the person concerned, through his or her activities, harms state and public security, public order, public health and morals, the rights and freedoms, honor and good reputation of others.

Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia may be granted to persons who have provided exceptional services to the Republic of Armenia without complying with the requirements of this article.

A person receiving citizenship of the Republic of Armenia shall take the following oath: "I, (name and surname), becoming a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, swear to be loyal to the Republic of Armenia, to uphold the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia, to protect the independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia. I undertake to respect the state language, national culture and customs of the Republic of Armenia."

The person receiving citizenship reads the text of the oath in Armenian and signs it.

### ***Article 14. Restoration of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

The citizenship of a person who has lost citizenship of the Republic of Armenia may be restored upon his/her application if the grounds set forth in Part Four of Article 13 of this Law are absent and if he/she has not been deprived of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

### ***Article 15. Group acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

Group acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is carried out by decree of the President of the Republic in immigration and other cases prescribed by law.

## CHAPTER 3.

### CITIZENSHIP OF A CHILD IN THE EVENT OF CHANGE OF CITIZENSHIP OF PARENTS OR ADOPTION

#### ***Article 16. Citizenship of a child in case of acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by parents***

A child under the age of 14 of parents who have acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

If one of the parents acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, and the other is a foreign citizen or a stateless person, then their child under the age of 14 acquires citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, if there is the consent of the parents or if the child resides in the Republic of Armenia and there is the consent of the parent who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia.

#### ***Article 17. Citizenship of a child in case of loss of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by parents***

A child under the age of 14 of parents who have lost citizenship of the Republic of Armenia loses citizenship of the Republic of Armenia if he or she acquires citizenship of another state.

If one of the parents has lost citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, and the other is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, their child under the age of 14 loses citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, if there is the consent of the parents or if the child resides outside the Republic of Armenia and there is the consent of the parent who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia.

#### ***Article 18. Citizenship of a child upon adoption***

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

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

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

- 1) there is the consent of the spouses who adopted the child;
- 2) the child resides in the Republic of Armenia and there is the consent of the adoptive spouse who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia;
- 3) the child is a stateless person or becomes a stateless person if he/she does not acquire citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

#### ***Article 19. Preservation of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia in case of adoption***

A child who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia and who is adopted by foreign citizens or by spouses, one of whom is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia and the other a foreign citizen, retains the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. In such a case, the child may change citizenship only upon application by the adoptive parents.

A child who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia and who is adopted by stateless persons, or one of the adopting spouses is a stateless person and the other is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, retains the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

***Article 20. Citizenship of a child whose parents are unknown***

A child in the Republic of Armenia whose parents are unknown is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia. In the event of the presence of one of the parents or a guardian, the child's citizenship may be changed in accordance with this law.

***Article 21. Preservation of the citizenship of a child over whom guardianship or trusteeship has been established***

A child who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, over whom guardianship or trusteeship of citizens of the Republic of Armenia has been established, retains the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, regardless of the fact that his parents have renounced the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. In such a case, the child may renounce the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia upon the application of the parents, if they are not deprived of parental rights.

***Article 22. The need for children's consent when changing their citizenship***

In the event of a change in the citizenship of parents, the change of citizenship of children aged 14-18 shall take place in accordance with the procedure established by this law, subject to the consent of the children.

#### CHAPTER 4.

#### TERMINATION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

***Article 23. Grounds for termination of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia shall be terminated:

- 1) In case of changing the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia:
- 2) In case of deprivation of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia:
- 3) on the grounds provided for by international treaties of the Republic of Armenia;
- 4) on other grounds provided for by this law.

***Article 24. Changing citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

Every citizen of the Republic of Armenia who has reached the age of 18 has the right to change citizenship: to renounce citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and acquire citizenship of another state.

A citizen's application to renounce citizenship of the Republic of Armenia shall be rejected if:

- 1) criminal prosecution has been initiated against him/her;
- 2) there is a court judgment or ruling that has entered into legal force and is subject to enforcement against him/her;
- 3) his/her renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia contradicts the interests of the national security of the Republic of Armenia;
- 4) he has unfulfilled obligations related to the interests of the state, enterprises, organizations or citizens.

***Article 25. Deprivation of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia***

A person may be deprived of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia if he/she:

1) Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia has been acquired by this

In accordance with Article 13 of the Law and permanently residing abroad, he has not registered with the consular authorities for seven years without good reason.

2) acquired citizenship of the Republic of Armenia based on false information or false documents;

3) has acquired the citizenship of another state in violation of the legislation on citizenship of the Republic of Armenia.

**CHAPTER 5.**

**BODIES REGULATING CITIZENSHIP ISSUES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

***Article 26. The President of the Republic***

The President of the Republic, by his decree, resolves issues of obtaining citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, restoring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, group acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, termination of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, and establishes the procedure for considering applications for citizenship.

***Article 27. The Commission on Citizenship Issues under the President of the Republic***

The Commission on Citizenship Issues under the President of the Republic is formed by the President of the Republic.

The statute of the Citizenship Issues Committee is approved by the President of the Republic.

***Article 28. The Government***

The government:

1) ensures the compliance of acts of the government, ministries, and other administrative bodies with this law;

2) establishes the procedure for issuing documents confirming citizenship of the Republic of Armenia and issuing them to citizens;

3) establishes the list and samples of documents required for the acquisition and termination of citizenship;

4) adopts decisions ensuring the implementation of this law.

The government, through its competent authorities,

1) accepts applications and other documents regarding citizenship, verifies their authenticity and validity;

2) citizenship applications, petitions and other

sends the documents with the relevant conclusions to the President of the Republic;

- 3) Submits a proposal to the President of the Republic on the termination of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia;
- 4) carries out the registration of citizens of the Republic of Armenia;
- 5) in accordance with this law, determines the citizenship of persons of the Republic of Armenia.

## CHAPTER 6.

### CITIZENSHIP PROCEDURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

#### *Article 29. Procedure for submitting and considering applications and petitions on issues of citizenship of the Republic of Armenia*

Applications and petitions regarding citizenship issues are submitted in writing.

Applications regarding citizenship issues are considered within one year. In case of rejection of the application, it is possible to apply again one year after the date of rejection, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by this law.

#### *Article 30. Complaints about illegal actions of officials in matters of citizenship*

Failure to accept applications on citizenship issues by officials, violation of the deadlines for consideration, as well as their other illegal actions can be appealed in court.

**President of the Republic of Armenia**

**: L. Ter-Petrosyan**

**November 16, 1995.**

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18.11.1997	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
12.10.1999	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
20.03.2001	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
20.03.2002	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
18.11.2003	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
26.02.2007	<a href="#"><u>On making amendments and additions to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
06.04.2010	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
30.11.2011	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
08.12.2011	<a href="#"><u>On making amendments and additions to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>



20.05.2013	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
19.06.2013	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments and Supplements to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
07.05.2015	<a href="#"><u>On making amendments and additions to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
08.02.2017	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
06.12.2017	<a href="#"><u>On making amendments and additions to the RA Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
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04.05.2022	<a href="#"><u>On amending the law "On amendments and additions to the law "On citizenship of the Republic of Armenia""</u></a>
07.07.2022	<a href="#"><u>On making amendments and additions to the Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
25.10.2023	<a href="#"><u>On Amendments and Supplements to the Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
11.12.2023	<a href="#"><u>On making amendments and supplements to the Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>
22.01.2025	<a href="#"><u>On making amendments and additions to the Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia"</u></a>