

The consolidated text of the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship includes the following regulations:

1. Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 013/08 of 26 February 2008),
2. Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 040/10 of 22 July 2010),
3. Law on Supplements to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 028/11 of 10 June 2011),
4. Law on Supplements to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 046/11 of 16 September 2011),
5. Decision of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro U-I No 17/11 of 28 February 2014 (Official Gazette of Montenegro 020/14 of 25 April 2014),
6. Law on Amendments and a Supplement to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 054/16 of 15 August 2016),
7. Law on Amendments and a Supplement to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro 073/19 of 27 December 2019),
8. Law on Amendments to the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 077/24 of 05 August 2024), specifying the date of their entry into force.

LAW ON MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP

(Official Gazette of Montenegro 013/08 of 26 February 2008, 040/10 of 22 July 2010, 028/11 of 10 June 2011, 046/11 of 16 September 2011, 020/14 of 25 April 2014, 054/16 of 15 August 2016, 073/19 of 27 December 2019, 077/24 of 05 August 2024)

I. BASIC PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Law regulates the manner of and conditions for acquiring and losing Montenegrin citizenship, as well as the manner of keeping register of Montenegrin citizens.

Montenegrin citizenship shall represent a legal relationship between a physical person (hereinafter referred to as: person) and Montenegro and it shall not indicate his or her national or ethnicity origin.

Article 2

A Montenegrin citizen who has citizenship status in another state as well, shall be considered Montenegrin citizen in a procedure before Montenegrin bodies, unless otherwise provided by international treaties.

Article 3

Montenegrin citizenship shall be proved by a certificate of Montenegrin citizenship, by valid travel document and by other public documents in accordance with the law.

Article 3a

All terms used in this Law for natural persons denoting male gender shall also stand for the same terms denoting female gender.

II. ACQUIRING MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP

Article 4

Montenegrin citizenship shall be acquired:

- 1) by origin;
- 2) by birth on the territory of Montenegro;
- 3) by admittance;
- 4) based on international treaties and agreements.

1. Acquiring Montenegrin citizenship by origin

Article 5

Montenegrin citizenship by origin shall be acquired by a child:

- 1) whose both parents are Montenegrin citizens at the moment of the child's birth;
- 2) born on the territory of Montenegro, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen at the moment of the child's birth;
- 3) born on the territory of another state, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen at the moment of the child's birth, the other being unknown, of unknown citizenship or stateless;
- 4) born on the territory of another state, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen at the moment of the child's birth, provided that otherwise he or she will remain without citizenship.

Article 6

Montenegrin citizenship by origin may also be acquired:

- 1) by a child born on the territory of another state, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen at the moment of the child's birth, if by the time the child turns 18 years of age a request for entering into the register of births and the register of Montenegrin citizens is submitted, and if child does not have citizenship of another parent;
- 2) by a person over 18 years of age, one of whose parents is a Montenegrin citizen, and the other a citizen of another state, if he or she submits a request for being entered in the register of Montenegrin citizens before he or she turns 23 years of age, and does not have citizenship of another parent;
- 3) by an adopted child, in case of complete adoption, if one of the adopters is a Montenegrin citizen, and does not have citizenship of another adopter;

If a child referred to in paragraph 1 item 1 of this Article is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall be necessary for acquiring Montenegrin citizenship.

2. Acquiring Montenegrin citizenship by birth on the territory of Montenegro

Article 7

A child born or found on the territory of Montenegro shall acquire Montenegrin citizenship if both of their parents are unknown, if their citizenship is unknown, if they are stateless, or if the child would otherwise be left without citizenship.

The Montenegrin citizenship of a child referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be lost if, before the child turns 18, it is established that their parents are citizens of another state, or that the child has acquired citizenship of another state, regardless of the basis for acquisition.

The Montenegrin citizenship of a child referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be lost upon the request of the child's parents, on the day the decision is delivered to them. If the child is older than 14 years of age, their consent is also required for the loss of Montenegrin citizenship.

3. Acquiring Montenegrin citizenship by admittance

Article 8

A person may acquire Montenegrin citizenship by naturalization, in accordance with the interests of Montenegro, who has submitted an application and meets the following conditions:

1. The person is over 18 years of age;
2. The person has been released from the citizenship of another state;

3. The person has had lawful and uninterrupted residence in Montenegro for at least 10 years prior to applying for Montenegrin citizenship;
4. The person has accommodation and a guaranteed permanent source of income in Montenegro, sufficient to ensure material and social security;
5. The person has not been sentenced to a prison term exceeding one year, either in Montenegro or another state, for a criminal offense subject to ex officio prosecution, unless the legal consequences of the conviction no longer apply;
6. The person has knowledge of the Montenegrin language and is able to communicate in it at a basic level;
7. There are no legal obstacles for reasons related to public order and state security;
8. The person has settled all tax and other legal obligations.

The condition from paragraph 1, item 2 of this Article does not apply to a person who has submitted a request if:

- The person is stateless or provides proof that they will lose their citizenship by law upon acquiring Montenegrin citizenship, or
- Their request for release from the citizenship of another state was denied because they have not settled their military obligations in that state, provided they sign a statement that in the case of acquiring Montenegrin citizenship, they will renounce the citizenship of the other state.

If criminal proceedings have been initiated for the criminal offense under paragraph 1, item 5 of this Article, the proceedings shall be suspended until a final decision is made in the criminal case.

The Government of Montenegro (hereinafter referred to as: the Government) shall designate the professional organisation for determining the criteria and verifying the language knowledge from paragraph 1, item 6 of this Article.

Article 9

A person who has submitted a request for admission to Montenegrin citizenship and has not been released from the citizenship of another state may, at their request, be issued a guarantee act stating that they will acquire Montenegrin citizenship if they meet the conditions from Article 8, paragraph 1 of this Law. The guarantee act shall be issued with a validity period of two years, on the condition that the person continues to meet the requirements for admission before the expiration of this period.

The procedure for admission to Montenegrin citizenship shall be suspended if the person fails to submit the evidence referred to in Article 8, paragraph 1, item 2 of this Law within two years from the date the guarantee act is issued.

Article 10

A Montenegrin emigrant and a member of their family up to the third degree of kinship in the direct line may acquire Montenegrin citizenship by admittance if they have been lawfully and continuously residing in Montenegro for at least two years and meet the conditions set forth in Article 8, paragraph 1, items 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8 of this Law.

The lawful and continuous residence of the person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined based on the criteria established by the act from Article 17 of this Law.

Article 11

A person who has been married to a Montenegrin citizen for at least three years and has had lawful and uninterrupted residence in Montenegro for at least five years prior to applying for Montenegrin citizenship may be granted Montenegrin citizenship if the conditions referred to in Article 8, paragraph 1, items 1, 4, 5, and 7 of this Law are met.

The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article also apply to a person who was married to a Montenegrin citizen for at least three years, and the marriage ended with the death of the spouse.

The lawful and uninterrupted residence of persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined according to the criteria prescribed by the act referred to in Article 17 of this Law.

Article 12

A person whose admission to Montenegrin citizenship is of special importance for the state, scientific, economic, cultural, sports, or other interests of Montenegro may, exceptionally, acquire Montenegrin citizenship by admittance, even if they do not meet the requirements set forth in Article 8 of this Law.

The national administration authority responsible for internal affairs shall decide on granting Montenegrin citizenship in the interest of the state and other interests of Montenegro, based on the proposal of the President of Montenegro, the President of the Parliament of Montenegro, or the Prime Minister of Montenegro.

The state administration authority responsible for internal affairs shall decide on granting Montenegrin citizenship under paragraph 1 of this Article, with the opinion of the administration authority responsible for matters referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 13

A person who has been granted refugee status in Montenegro in accordance with the law governing asylum may acquire Montenegrin citizenship by naturalization if they meet the requirements set forth in Article 8, paragraph 1, items 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8 of this Law.

Article 14

A stateless person may acquire Montenegrin citizenship by admittance if they meet the requirements set forth in Article 8, paragraph 1, items 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8 of this Law.

Article 15

A person born in Montenegro and a person born on the territory of another state, who has lawfully and continuously resided in Montenegro before reaching the age of 18, may acquire Montenegrin citizenship by naturalization if they meet the requirements set forth in Article 8, paragraph 1, items 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8 of this Law.

Article 16

Montenegrin citizenship by admittance shall be granted to a child who does not have citizenship of another state or who has been released from citizenship of another state, if:

- 1) both parents have been admitted into Montenegrin citizenship;
- 2) one of the parents has acquired Montenegrin citizenship by admittance and the child lives lawfully and uninterrupted in Montenegro with that parent;;
- 3) in the case of partial adoption, the child lives lawfully and uninterrupted with an adopter who is a Montenegrin citizen.

The application referred to in paragraph 1, item 2, of this Article shall be submitted together with the consent of the other parent, unless that parent is stateless. If the other parent does not give consent for the granting of Montenegrin citizenship to the child, the authorised guardianship body shall give its opinion..

If the child in question is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall also be required for the granting of Montenegrin citizenship.

Article 17

The criteria for establishing the conditions in cases of granting Montenegrin citizenship referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 3, 4, and 7, Article 12 and Article 24 paragraph 1 items 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this Law shall be determined by the Government.

4. Acquiring Montenegrin citizenship based on international treaties and agreements**Article 18**

Montenegrin citizenship may be acquired based on a ratified international treaties or agreements signed by Montenegro.

On the basis of the international treaties and agreements referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, dual citizenship may be established, on the condition that it is reciprocal.

III. LOSS OF MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP

Article 19

Montenegrin citizenship shall be lost:

- 1) at the request of the Montenegrin citizen,
- 2) by operation of law (ex lege),
- 3) based on an international treaties and agreements.

1. Loss of Montenegrin citizenship by request

Article 20

Montenegrin citizenship shall be lost by release at the request of the Montenegrin citizen.

Release from Montenegrin citizenship shall be granted to a person if he or she submits a request for release and fulfills the following conditions:

1. the person is over 18 years of age;
2. the person has the citizenship of another state or proof that they will be granted the citizenship of another state;
3. the person factually resides outside the territory of Montenegro.

Article 21

A Montenegrin citizen who has submitted a request for release from Montenegrin citizenship may, upon request, be issued a written guarantee of release if the conditions referred to in Article 20, paragraph 2 of this Law have been fulfilled.

The procedure for release shall be suspended if the individual fails, within two years of having been issued the written guarantee, to provide proof that he or she has acquired the citizenship of another state.

Article 22

Release from Montenegrin citizenship may be granted to a child, provided that the child does not remain stateless, upon the request of:

1. Parents who lose Montenegrin citizenship by release;
2. A parent who loses Montenegrin citizenship by release, with the consent of the other parent who is a Montenegrin citizen;
3. A parent who loses Montenegrin citizenship by release, and the other parent is a citizen of another country or has unknown citizenship or is stateless;
4. Both adoptive parents, who are citizens of another country, in the case of full adoption;
5. A parent who loses Montenegrin citizenship, and the child has been entrusted to his/her care and upbringing by a final court decision, if the parents are divorced or no longer live together.

If the other parent does not give consent for the child's release from Montenegrin citizenship, or is of unknown residence, deprived of legal capacity, or parental rights, the request for the release of the child from Montenegrin citizenship will be accepted if, according to the opinion of the competent guardianship authority, it is in the best interest of the child.

If the child is over 14 years of age, their consent is also required for the release from Montenegrin citizenship.

Article 23

If a Montenegrin citizen who has been granted release from Montenegrin citizenship does not acquire the citizenship of another state within one year of having received the decision on release, national administration authority responsible for dealing with matters of citizenship (hereinafter: responsible authority) shall revoke the decision on the release passed upon the request of that person.

A request for the revocation of the decision on the release from Montenegrin citizenship may be submitted within three months of the expiry of the deadline referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

A decision on the release of Montenegrin citizenship may be revoked, upon request of the person and the expiry of the deadline referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, if the person remained stateless.

2. Loss of Montenegrin citizenship by operation of law (ex lege)

Article 24

An adult Montenegrin citizen who acquires the citizenship of another state shall lose Montenegrin citizenship ex lege if:

1. he or she voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another state, except in situations stipulated in Article 18, paragraph 2 of this Law;
2. it is determined that the decision on granting Montenegrin citizenship was made based on false statements or deliberate concealment of facts or circumstances crucial for the decision, except in cases where the person would become stateless as a result;
3. the person acquired Montenegrin citizenship based on guarantees given by another state, stating that the person will lose their current citizenship if Montenegrin citizenship is granted, and within the deadline stipulated in the decision, fails to present proof of the loss of citizenship from that state, except in cases where this would make the person stateless;
4. the person is convicted of crimes against humanity and other values protected by international law;
5. the person is convicted of planning, organizing, financing, or otherwise assisting or executing terrorist actions or providing shelter to the organizers, perpetrators, or participants in terrorist actions;
6. the person is a member of an organization whose activities are directed against the public order and security of Montenegro;
7. the person voluntarily serves in the military forces of another state;
8. the person's behavior seriously harms the vital interests of Montenegro.

A Montenegrin child who holds the citizenship of another state shall lose Montenegrin citizenship ex lege if, before reaching 18 years of age, it is determined that the conditions under which they were granted Montenegrin citizenship no longer exist.

If both parents lose Montenegrin citizenship under the conditions stipulated in items 1, 2, and 3 of paragraph 1 of this Article, or if only one parent loses citizenship and the other is not a Montenegrin citizen, their child shall also lose Montenegrin citizenship, unless this would render the child stateless.

The competent authority shall initiate the procedure ex officio after becoming aware of the facts outlined in paragraphs 1 to 3 of this Article.

3. Loss of Montenegrin citizenship based on international treaties and agreements

Article 25

Montenegrin citizenship may be lost based on international treaties or agreements concluded by Montenegro.

IV. RE-ACQUISITION OF MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP

Article 26

A person who has lost Montenegrin citizenship and has acquired the citizenship of another state may re-acquire Montenegrin citizenship if they submit a request for re-acquisition of Montenegrin citizenship, and if they have lawful and uninterrupted residence in Montenegro for at least one year, in accordance with the relevant legislation. The request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be rejected if the conditions from Article 8, paragraph 1, items 1, 2, and 7 are not fulfilled.

The lawful and uninterrupted residence of the persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be determined according to the criteria prescribed by the act referred to in Article 17 of this Law.

V. PROCEDURE FOR ACQUIRING AND LOSING MONTENEGRIN CITIZENSHIP BY REQUEST

Article 27

The responsible authority decides on the request for determination, acquisition, and loss of Montenegrin citizenship.

Article 28

The request from Article 27 of this law shall be submitted to the responsible authority in person or through a proxy, using the prescribed form. In the case of a person deprived of legal capacity, the request is submitted by the guardian.

Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this Article, the request may be submitted through a diplomatic or consular mission if the applicant resides in the territory of another state.

The competent authority prescribes the forms and content of the request from paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 29

If the procedure for determining, acquiring, or losing Montenegrin citizenship, initiated upon the request of a person, cannot continue or be completed without a certain action by the applicant, it shall be considered that the applicant has withdrawn the request if, despite a warning from the competent authority, the applicant fails to perform the action required to continue or conclude the procedure within the provided time frame, or if it can be concluded that the applicant is no longer interested in continuing the procedure due to failure to take the required action.

The decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall be made after three months from the date of the warning, or six months if the person resides in another state.

The responsible authority is required to make a decision on the acquisition and loss of Montenegrin citizenship within one year from the initiation of the procedure. The decision shall be made in writing and must include reasoning and instructions on legal remedies.

An administrative dispute can be initiated against the decision referred to in paragraph 3 of this article.

Article 30

A person granted Montenegrin citizenship shall make an oath of allegiance. The content and manner of taking the oath shall be determined by the Government.

Article 31

Montenegrin citizenship shall be considered acquired or lost on the day the decision on acquisition or loss is delivered.

Montenegrin citizenship shall be lost *ex lege* on the day the facts referred to in Article 24 of this Law that cause the loss take effect, and the responsible authority shall issue a decision *ex officio*.

In the process of making the decision referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the responsible authority shall be required to allow the person to provide a statement regarding the facts and circumstances referred to in Article 24 of this Law. The decision may be made even without the person's statement if they were properly notified and fail to submit a written statement within the specified time limit.

Article 32

Taxes for actions and acts in the procedure of determining, acquiring, and losing Montenegrin citizenship shall be prescribed by a separate law, in an amount that does not pose an obstacle to the submission of requests.

VI. RECORDS OF MONTENEGRIN CITIZENS**Article 33**

The record of Montenegrin citizens shall be kept.

The record of Montenegrin citizens shall be known as the register of Montenegrin citizens (hereinafter referred to as: the register).

The register shall be kept *ex officio* by the responsible authority.

A Montenegrin citizen born in Montenegro shall be entered into the register at the place of their birth, while a Montenegrin citizen not born in Montenegro shall be entered into the register at the place where they are recorded in the birth registry in Montenegro, in accordance with the law.

Article 34

The register referred to in Article 33 of this Law shall be a computerized database of Montenegrin citizens, where the following information shall be recorded: ordinal number; last name, last name at birth, and first name; gender; unique master citizen number; date of birth; place, municipality, and country of birth; father's last name and first name; mother's last name, first name, and last name at birth; date of entry; place and municipality of entry; method and legal basis for acquiring citizenship; citizenship of another country; loss of Montenegrin citizenship – method,

legal basis, and date; number and date of the act, and name of the authority; date of removal from the register; remarks.

The register of Montenegrin citizens who have been granted Montenegrin citizenship or have acquired citizenship based on international treaties and agreements shall, in addition to the data referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, also contain the following information: professional qualifications (degree and field); profession; place of residence on the date Montenegrin citizenship was granted; previous citizenship (or nationality if previous citizenship is unknown); date and number of the decision, along with the name of the issuing authority; method and legal basis for acquiring citizenship.

The register shall be kept in a manner which allows for compatibility and linking with official records of state administration authorities.

A responsible authority shall maintain a record of submitted requests, including the data contained in the requests and any accompanying documentation.

A set of documents that form the legal basis for entry into the register shall be an integral part of the register.

The responsible authority shall adopt the bylaw regulating the updating of the register.

Article 35

The records and documents pertaining to entry into the register of Montenegrin citizens shall be kept permanently.

The data contained in the register shall be kept by the authority in charge of the register for 50 years following the death or the loss of Montenegrin citizenship of the person to whom the data pertains.

Upon the expiry of the deadline referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the data shall be transferred to the authorised state archive.

Article 36

The data required for the register referred to in Article 33 of this Law shall be collected: from the existing citizen records; from other public records kept by state administrative bodies, local government bodies and other bodies; from public documents; from the individuals to whom the data directly relate.

Article 37

Personal data from the register shall be used by the responsible authority while performing their duties in accordance with the law.

The data referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be used for statistical, scientific, and research purposes in accordance with the law governing official statistics and the official statistics system, for the needs of population, household, and housing censuses, as well as for the development, production, and dissemination of official statistics.

The responsible authority is required to provide data from the register to other users only if they are authorised by law to use such data or upon request and with the consent of the individual to whom the data relate.

Data users referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article may use the data solely for the purpose for which they were requested, and further sharing with other users is not permitted.

Article 38

The data from the register may, on the basis of reciprocity, be forwarded to the authorities of other states if:

- 1) they are forwarded to a body of another state authorised to deal with matters of citizenship;
- 2) the recipient undertakes to use the data obtained in this way only in connection with the procedure for regulating matters pertaining to citizenship, or if it is necessary for undertaking criminal procedure, or if the person to whom the data pertains undoubtedly benefits from their forwarding;
- 3) personal data protection shall be ensured by the authority to which the data are submitted, including for citizens of other countries

The national administration authority in charge of foreign affairs shall establish whether the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 item 3 of this Article have been fulfilled.

VII. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 39

A person shall be considered a Montenegrin citizen under this law if they have acquired Montenegrin citizenship in accordance with previous regulations and have been entered into the register of Montenegrin citizens.

Article 40

If a person who has acquired Montenegrin citizenship in accordance with the regulations has not been entered into the record of Montenegrin citizens maintained under the previous regulations, the responsible authority shall establish the said person's citizenship upon their request.

Article 41

A citizen of former Yugoslav republics, having had registered residence in Montenegro before 3 June 2006, can acquire Montenegrin citizenship by admittance if he or she:

- 1) does not have citizenship of another state or if he or she has been released from citizenship of another state;
- 2) meets conditions referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 4, 5, 7 and 8 of this Law.

The request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and the request referred to in Article 40 of this Law can be submitted to the responsible authority within one year from the date of entry in force of this Law.

After the expiration of the period specified in paragraph 2 of this Article, a person may be granted or determined Montenegrin citizenship only if they would otherwise be stateless and if they submit an application within five years from the date this law enters into force.

Article 41a

The persons referred to in Article 41 paragraph 1 of this Law may submit a request for admission into Montenegrin citizenship by 5 May 2011 if, by the time the application was submitted, in addition to the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, they have not cancelled their residence in Montenegro.

The provision of Article 8 paragraph 2 indent 2 of this Law shall apply to persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 41b

The person referred to in Article 41 paragraph 1 of this Law may submit a request for admission into Montenegrin citizenship by 31 July 2012 if, by the time the application was submitted, he or she has not cancelled residence in Montenegro, and if:

- 1) he or she does not have citizenship of another state or if he or she has been released from citizenship of another state;
- 2) the conditions referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 4, 5, 7 and 8 and paragraph 2 item 2 of this Law are fulfilled.

Article 41v

By way of derogation from Article 41 of this Law, a citizen of the former SFRY who has registered residence in Montenegro for at least two years prior to 3 June 2006, and an identity card issued in accordance with the Law on Identity Card that had been in force at the time of its issuance, may acquire Montenegrin citizenship by admittance if he meets the conditions referred to in Article 8 paragraph 1 items 4, 5, 7 and 8 of this Law, if, by the time the application was submitted, he or she had not cancelled residence in Montenegro.

A child of persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, who does not have his or her identity card issued, shall be entitled to Montenegrin citizenship under the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

The request referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be submitted to the competent authority no later than 31 January 2012.

The person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be obliged to submit to the responsible authority a written statement on the acceptance of rights and obligations based on Montenegrin citizenship, accompanied by the application for admission to Montenegrin citizenship.

Montenegrin citizenship by origin shall also be acquired by a person born in Montenegro, both or one of whose parents had been entered into the register of Montenegrin citizens at the time of his or her birth, and who had been entered into the register of births in Montenegro, but not into the register of Montenegrin citizens.

Article 42

The Register referred to in Article 33 of this Law shall be established within two years following the day of entry into force of this Law.

The records of citizens maintained in accordance with the regulations in force until the date of application of this law shall be closed, and the data shall be transferred to the register referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. Data from the registers of citizens shall be transferred to the register in accordance with Article 39 of this Law.

Until establishing of the Register referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the record on persons granted or having lost Montenegrin citizenship shall be maintained on the way prescribed by the responsible authority.

Information on the loss of Montenegrin citizenship shall be recorded in the register of citizens in which the individual is registered.

Article 43

The records of citizens kept until the day this Law enters into effect and the registries to be established in accordance with Article 42 paragraph 3 of this Law, as well as certificates issued based on citizenship records, shall have the character of public documents.

Public documents referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article contain the Montenegrin coat of arms.

Article 44

Secondary legislation necessary for the implementation of this Law shall be passed within six months following the day of entry into force of this Law.

The responsible authority shall prescribe the records referred to in Article 42, paragraph 3 of this Law, as well as the form and content of the certificate of citizenship referred to in Article 43 of this law, within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this law.

Article 45

Procedures initiated in accordance with the Law on Montenegrin Citizenship (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro 41/99) and the Law on Yugoslav Citizenship (Official Gazette of FRY 33/96 and 9/01), shall be finalised in accordance to this Law.

Article 45a

Procedures initiated before the entry into force of this Law shall be finalised in accordance with this Law.

Article 46

The records of citizens kept in accordance with the existing regulations, which were valid until this Law enters into effect, shall be kept for a period of 100 years following the last entry, and after the expiry of this period of time, shall be deposited with the authorised state archive.

Article 47

Article 47 The Law on Montenegrin citizenship shall be repealed with effect from the date of entry into force of this Law (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro 41/99).

Article 48

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day following its publication in the Official Gazette of Montenegro.