

Act (2001:82) on Swedish Citizenship

There may be errors in the statutory texts, and appendices may be missing. Therefore, always check against the printed version.

Areas: Population registration

Amendment up to and including: SFS 2024:424

The importance of citizenship

Section 1 Swedish citizenship is a legal relationship between the citizen and the state that entails rights and obligations for both parties. Citizenship unites all citizens and represents a sense of belonging to Sweden.

Citizenship represents formal membership in Swedish society and is a foundation for the People's Government.

This Act regulates how a person becomes and ceases to be a Swedish citizen. *Act (2014:481)*.

Acquisition of Swedish citizenship at birth

Section 2 A child acquires Swedish citizenship at birth if

1. one parent of the child is a Swedish citizen, or
2. a deceased parent of the child was a Swedish citizen at the time of his or her death. *Law (2014:481)*.

Section 3 A foundling who is found in this country is considered a Swedish citizen until something else becomes known. *Law (2014:481)*.

Acquisition of Swedish citizenship through adoption

Section 4 A child who has not reached the age of twelve and who is adopted by a Swedish citizen becomes a Swedish citizen upon adoption, if

1. the child is adopted in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Norway, or
2. the child is adopted through a foreign decision that is valid in Sweden according to the Act (1997:191) on the occasion of Sweden's accession to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption or the Act (2018:1289) on Adoption in International Situations. *Act (2018:1293)*.

Acquisition of Swedish citizenship by registration

Section 5 Has been repealed by *law (2014:481)* .

Section 6 A child who has been born in Sweden and who has been stateless since birth acquires Swedish citizenship upon notification by the person or persons who have custody of the child, if the child has a permanent residence permit and is domiciled in this country.

The requirement for a permanent residence permit in the first paragraph does not apply to a child who has been domiciled in this country for five years or for a total of ten years and who has been granted a temporary residence permit under Chapter 5, Sections 1, 3, 3a or 6 or Chapter 12, Section 18 of the Aliens Act (2005:716).

Law (2024:423) .

Section 7 A child who does not have Swedish citizenship acquires Swedish citizenship after notification by the person or persons who have custody of the child, if the child has

1. permanent residence permit in Sweden, and
2. residence in this country for three years or, if the child is stateless, two years.

If the child has reached the age of twelve and has foreign citizenship, the acquisition of Swedish citizenship requires the child's consent. However, such consent is not required if the child is permanently prevented from giving consent due to a mental disorder or other similar condition.

If the child has reached the age of fifteen, in order to acquire Swedish citizenship it is required that it be made probable that the child's stated identity is correct. It is also required that he or she neither

1. is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime that is no less serious or dates back a long time,
2. is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, corresponds to a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, is no less serious or dates back a long time,
3. is deemed to constitute a threat to Sweden's security or public safety, or
4. has been active in, or had a controlling influence over, an organization or group whose activities include systematic, extensive and serious abuse of other people. *Law (2024:423)* .

Section 8 A foreigner acquires Swedish citizenship after notification if he or she

1. has reached the age of eighteen but not twenty-one at the time of registration,
2. has a permanent residence permit in Sweden, and
3. has been resident in this country for five years or, in the case of a stateless person,

- a) for five years,
- b) for a total of ten years, or
- c) after he or she has reached the age of fifteen.

The requirement in the first paragraph 2 does not apply to a foreigner who

- 1. was born in Sweden,
- 2. since birth is stateless,
- 3. has been resident in this country for five years or for a total of ten years, and
- 4. has been granted a temporary residence permit under Chapter 5, Sections 1, 3, 3a or 6 or Chapter 12, Section 18 of the Aliens Act (2005:716).

In addition to the requirements stated in the first paragraph, the acquisition of Swedish citizenship requires that the foreigner makes it probable that the identity provided is correct. It is also required that he or she neither

- 1. is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime that is no less serious or dates back a long time,
- 2. is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, corresponds to a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, is no less serious or dates back a long time,
- 3. is deemed to constitute a threat to Sweden's security or public safety, or
- 4. has been active in, or had a controlling influence over, an organization or group whose activities include systematic, extensive and serious abuse of other people.

The third paragraph does not apply to a foreigner who was born in Sweden and who has been stateless since birth. *Law (2024:423)* .

Section 9 Anyone who has reached the age of eighteen and who has lost or been released from their Swedish citizenship shall regain this after notification, if he or she

- 1. has a permanent residence permit in Sweden,
- 2. has been resident in this country for a total of ten years, and
- 3. has been resident in this country for two years.

In order for citizenship to be restored, in addition to the requirements that follow from the first paragraph, it is required that the person to whom the notification relates makes it probable that the identity provided is correct. It is also required that he or she neither

1. is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime that is no less serious or dates back a long time,

2. is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, corresponds to a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, is no less serious or dates back a long time,

3. is deemed to constitute a threat to Sweden's security or public safety, or

4. has been active in, or had a controlling influence over, an organization or group whose activities include systematic, extensive and serious abuse of other people. *Law (2024:423)* .

Section 10 If a foreigner becomes a Swedish citizen in accordance with Section 6, 7, 8 or 9, his or her unmarried children who are domiciled in this country and have not reached the age of eighteen also acquire Swedish citizenship if the foreigner:

1. has sole custody of the child, or

2. has joint custody with the other parent and he or she is a Swedish citizen.

If the parents of an unmarried child who is domiciled in this country and who has not reached the age of eighteen simultaneously become Swedish citizens in accordance with sections 6, 7, 8 or 9, the child also acquires Swedish citizenship if he or she is under the custody of both of them.

If the child has reached the age of fifteen, in order to acquire Swedish citizenship it is required that it be made probable that the child's stated identity is correct. It is also required that he or she neither

1. is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime that is no less serious or dates back a long time,

2. is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, corresponds to a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, is no less serious or dates back a long time,

3. is deemed to constitute a threat to Sweden's security or public safety, or

4. has been active in, or had a controlling influence over, an organization or group whose activities include systematic, extensive and serious abuse of other people. *Law (2024:423)* .

Acquisition of Swedish citizenship upon application (naturalization)

Section 11 A foreigner may, upon application, be granted Swedish citizenship (naturalised) if he or she has

1. has confirmed their identity,

2. have reached the age of eighteen,
3. permanent residence permit in Sweden,
4. residence in this country
 - a) for two years in the case of Danish, Finnish, Icelandic or Norwegian citizens,
 - b) for four years in the case of a person who is stateless or who is considered a refugee according to Chapter 4, Section 1 of the Aliens Act (2005:716),
 - c) for five years in the case of other foreigners, and
5. has had and can be expected to have an honest way of life. *Law (2005:722)* .

Section 12 If the requirements in Section 11 are not met, the applicant may still be naturalized, unless otherwise provided for in the second paragraph, if

1. the applicant has previously been a Swedish citizen,
2. the applicant is married to or cohabiting with a Swedish citizen, or
3. there are other special reasons for it.

An applicant who cannot prove his or her identity according to Section 11, Section 1, may only be naturalized if he or she has been resident in this country for at least eight years and makes it probable that the identity provided is correct.

Section 13 In a decision on naturalization, it shall be determined whether the applicant's unmarried children who are under eighteen years of age also acquire Swedish citizenship.

Loss of Swedish citizenship

Section 14 A Swedish citizen loses his or her Swedish citizenship when he or she reaches the age of twenty-two, if he or she:

1. was born abroad,
2. never had a residence in Sweden, and
3. nor have been here under circumstances that indicate affinity with the country.

However, applications made before the Swedish citizen reaches the age of twenty-two may allow the citizenship to be retained.

When someone loses Swedish citizenship according to the first paragraph, his or her child also loses his or her Swedish citizenship, if the child acquired this because the parent was a Swedish citizen. However, the child does not lose his or her citizenship if the other parent retains his or her Swedish citizenship and the child also derives his or her Swedish citizenship from him or her.

Loss of Swedish citizenship does not occur if this would result in the person becoming stateless.

Liberation from Swedish citizenship

Section 15 Anyone who is or wishes to become a foreign citizen may, upon application, be released from their Swedish citizenship. Release may be refused if there is reason to believe that the applicant does not wish to be released from their Swedish citizenship. Anyone who is domiciled in Sweden may also be refused release if there are other special reasons.

If the applicant is not already a foreign citizen, it shall be a condition for the exemption from Swedish citizenship that he or she acquires citizenship in another country within a certain period of time. *Law (2024:423)*.

Section 15 a A prerequisite for a child's exemption from Swedish citizenship under Section 15 is that the exemption is not deemed to be contrary to the child's best interests. In that assessment, the child's views shall be taken into account, taking into account the child's age and maturity.

If the child has reached the age of twelve, it is also required that the child consents to the release, unless he or she is permanently prevented from giving consent due to illness or some other similar condition. *Act (2024:423)*.

Revocation of exemption decision

Section 15 b A decision on exemption from Swedish citizenship shall be revoked if, at the time of the decision, there were obstacles to exemption according to Sections 15 and 15 a and there are no special reasons against the decision being revoked.

A decision to revoke is valid from the day on which the decision to release from Swedish citizenship became legally effective.

Law (2024:423).

Certain provisions concerning the Nordic countries

Section 16 The Government may, following an agreement with Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Norway, issue regulations on the application of one or more of the provisions in Sections 17-19. In these provisions, the term "contracting state" refers to the state or states with which Sweden has entered into such an agreement.

Section 17 The provision in Section 14, first paragraph, does not apply to anyone who has been resident in a contracting state for a total of at least seven years.

Section 18 A citizen of a contracting state acquires Swedish citizenship by notification if he or she

1. has reached the age of eighteen,
2. has been resident in this country for five years, and

3. has not been sentenced to a custodial sentence during this time.

When a person acquires citizenship in such a way, the first and second paragraphs of section 10 apply to the citizen's children.

Law (2024:423) .

Section 19 A person who has lost his or her Swedish citizenship and has subsequently been a citizen of a contracting state without interruption shall regain Swedish citizenship by notification if he or she has taken up residence in this country. In the event of such acquisition of citizenship, the first and second paragraphs of Section 10 shall apply to the citizen's children. *Act (2024:423)* .

Certain provisions relating to requirements for permanent residence permits and the right of residence

Section 20 The provisions of this Act concerning requirements for a permanent residence permit do not apply to citizens of Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Norway.

In the case of citizens of other countries within the European Economic Area (EEA) and such family members as are referred to in Chapter 3 a, Section 2 of the Aliens Act (2005:716), the right of residence shall be equated with a permanent residence permit for the purposes of this Act. The same applies to aliens who have been granted residence status in Sweden in accordance with the Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p. 7).

Law (2020:940) .

Explanation

Section 21 After the application, a declaration may be issued that someone is a Swedish citizen, if there may be uncertainty about this.

Provisions on the procedure

Section 22 Questions about citizenship under this Act shall be examined by the authority appointed by the Government. *Act (2024:423)* .

Section 23 Anyone who has reached the age of eighteen may make an application or report in accordance with this Act even if he or she is under the custody of another person.

Section 24 Has been repealed by *law (2024:423)* .

Section 25 Has been repealed by *law (2005:722)* .

Section 26 Decisions in matters under this Act may be appealed to a migration court, except in cases referred to in Section 27.

A decision of a migration court is appealed to the Migration Court of Appeal in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 16 of the Aliens Act (2005:716). The provisions of this chapter also apply in other respects in cases under this Act. *Act (2024:423)* .

Section 27 Decisions in a security matter may be appealed to the Government. Such decisions may also be appealed by the Security Service.

A security case is a case where the Security Service has proposed that an application or notification under this Act be rejected for reasons relating to Sweden's security or public safety.

In a security matter, the acquisition of Swedish citizenship applies from the day the decision has become legally binding. *Act (2024:423)* .

Section 28 A social welfare committee shall, at the request of the Government, the Swedish Migration Board, a migration court, the Migration Court of Appeal or the Security Service, disclose information about a foreigner's personal circumstances, if the information is needed in a matter concerning Swedish citizenship.

A social welfare committee shall, at the request of the Government, the Swedish Migration Board, a migration court or the Migration Court of Appeal, disclose information about the person to whom a matter under section 15 or 15 a relates if the information is needed in such a matter. The obligation to disclose information concerns information about the individual's personal circumstances. *Act (2024:423)* .

Citizenship ceremonies

Section 29 Each municipality shall organize a ceremony for new Swedish citizens at least once a year to celebrate their new citizenship.

The municipality shall invite to a citizenship ceremony anyone who is registered in the municipality at the time of the invitation and has acquired Swedish citizenship in a way other than at birth during the past 18 months and has not previously been invited to such a ceremony.

At citizenship ceremonies, the content of Section 1, first paragraph, shall be conveyed. *Law (2014:481)* .

Transitional provisions

2001:82

1. This Act shall enter into force on 1 July 2001, when the Swedish Citizenship Act (1950:382) shall cease to apply.

As a result, Section 13, first paragraph, of the Act (1924:130) on the Acquisition and Loss of Swedish Citizenship shall also cease to apply. Until 1 July 2002, Section 7 of the 1950 Act shall apply to Swedish citizens who become citizens of another state that is bound by the provisions on limitation of cases of multiple citizenship (Chapter 1) of the 1963 European Convention on the

Limitation of Cases of Multiple Citizenship and on Military Obligations in Cases of Multiple Citizenship.

2. A child who was born in Sweden before the entry into force of the new Act and who would have become a Swedish citizen if Section 1 of the new Act had applied at the time of birth, acquires Swedish citizenship if:

- a) the father is still a Swedish citizen,
- b) the father registers a request for Swedish citizenship for the child with the Swedish Migration Board before 1 July 2003, and
- c) the child has not reached the age of eighteen at the time of notification.

If the child has reached the age of twelve and has foreign citizenship, the child's consent is required for the acquisition of Swedish citizenship. However, such consent is not required if the child is permanently prevented from giving consent due to a mental disorder or other similar condition.

The child's guardian must consent to the acquisition of Swedish citizenship.

3. A child who has been adopted before the entry into force of the new Act and who would have become a Swedish citizen if Section 3 of the new Act had applied at the time of the adoption, acquires Swedish citizenship if

- a) the adoption was decided on or after 1 July 1992,
- b) the person or persons who have custody of the child before 1 July 2003 registers a request for Swedish citizenship for the child with the Swedish Migration Board, and
- c) the child has not reached the age of eighteen at the time of notification.

If the child has reached the age of twelve and has foreign citizenship, the child's consent is required for the acquisition of Swedish citizenship. However, such consent is not required if the child is permanently prevented from giving consent due to a mental disorder or other similar condition.

4. Anyone who has lost their Swedish citizenship according to Section 7 of the Swedish Citizenship Act (1950:382) will regain it after reporting it to the Swedish Migration Board.

In order for Swedish citizenship to be regained, the person making the application must demonstrate that the identity provided is correct. It is also required that he or she neither

- a) is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for a repeated crime that is no less serious or dates back a long time,
- b) is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, corresponds to a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, is no less serious or dates back a long time,
- c) is deemed to constitute a threat to Sweden's security or public safety, or

d) has been active in, or had a controlling influence over, an organization or group whose activities include systematic, widespread and serious abuses of other people.

If the person to whom the report relates is under someone else's custody at the time of the report, the report is instead made by the person or persons who are the guardians.

If the notification concerns a child who has reached the age of twelve and has foreign citizenship, the acquisition of Swedish citizenship requires the child to consent to it. However, such consent is not required if the child is permanently prevented from giving consent due to a mental disorder or due to some other similar condition. *Act (2024:423)* .

5. In notification cases pursuant to paragraphs 2-4, Section 24 and Section 26, second paragraph, of the new Act apply.

6. Older provisions shall apply to notifications pursuant to Section 2a of the Swedish Citizenship Act (1950:382) which have been made before the entry into force of the new Act. The same shall apply to notifications pursuant to Section 3 of the 1950 Act which have been made before the entry into force of the new Act, unless application of the new Act is more favourable to the individual. The 1950 Act shall also apply to matters which have been submitted to the Government pursuant to Section 9a of that Act.

7. The supplementary article to the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation that Sweden concluded with Argentina on 17 July 1885 shall continue to apply as Swedish law without prejudice to this Act.

2005:722

1. This Act enters into force on 31 March 2006.

2. Cases or matters that have been brought before a court before March 31, 2006 shall be handled according to older regulations.

3. Cases that have been submitted to the Government pursuant to Section 25 but have not been decided before 31 March 2006 shall be submitted to the Swedish Migration Board, if an authority has not made a decision in the case, and otherwise to the migration court within whose jurisdiction the case was first heard.

4. Cases that have been submitted to the Immigration Board and that have not been decided before 31 March 2006 shall be transferred to the migration court within whose jurisdiction the case was first heard. If the case concerns a declaration pursuant to section 21, the case shall be transferred to the Migration Board.

2006:222

This Act enters into force on 30 April 2006. For citizens of countries within the European Economic Area (EEA) who have a temporary residence permit for at least five years granted before entry into force, the second paragraph of Section 20 in its previous wording applies.

2014:481

1. This Act enters into force on 1 April 2015.

2. The repealed sections 4 and 5 still apply to children born before 1 April 2015. If the child has reached the age of fifteen, acquisition of Swedish citizenship under the repealed section 5 requires that it be made probable that the child's stated identity is correct. It is also required that he or she neither

a) is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for a repeated crime that is no less serious or dates back a long time,

b) is reasonably suspected of or convicted of a crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, corresponds to a crime for which the most severe penalty prescribed is imprisonment for four years or more or for repeated crime outside Sweden that, according to Swedish law, is no less serious or dates back a long time,

c) is deemed to constitute a threat to Sweden's security or public safety, or

d) has been active in, or had a controlling influence over, an organization or group whose activities include systematic, widespread and serious abuses of other people.

When a person acquires citizenship according to the repealed Section 5, Section 10 applies to the citizen's children. *Law (2024:424)* .

3. When a person regains Swedish citizenship in accordance with paragraph 4 of the transitional provisions to the Act (2001:82) on Swedish Citizenship as amended, section 10 applies to the citizen's children.

2021:771

1. This Act enters into force on 20 July 2021.

2. The Act also applies to a foreigner who has been granted a temporary residence permit in accordance with the repealed Act (2016:752) on temporary restrictions on the possibility of obtaining a residence permit in Sweden or a residence permit that has been limited in time in accordance with that Act.

2024:423

1. This Act enters into force on 1 October 2024.

2. The provisions of Section 15 b do not apply to decisions issued before entry into force.

3. Older regulations apply to cases that have been initiated with the County Administrative Board before they come into force.

4. Older regulations apply when appealing decisions that were issued before the entry into force.

2024:424

1. This Act enters into force on 1 October 2024.

2. Older regulations apply when appealing decisions that were issued before the entry into force.