



Consolato generale d'Italia, Boston
in collaborazione con



**TO BE OR NOT TO BE
AN ITALIAN CITIZEN?**

**THAT IS THE
QUESTIONNAIRE!**



*DUAL CITIZENSHIP
INFORMATION GUIDE*

Created by Consulate General of Italy, Boston

INTRODUCTION

General coordination: Liborio Stellino, Consul General
Editor: Sara Tolotti, Università di Trento
Supervision: Costantino Corrao
Review: Giuseppe Costa, Università di Bologna
Graphic design: Fabio La Motta, Università di Messina
Sofia San Martino, Università di Messina
Informations about Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana,
Tennessee: Francesco Perrone, Martina Mazzetti

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G. Zampaglione, P. Guglielmo,
Diritto consolare, La cittadinanza, Roma, 1995

Law February, 5 1912, n. 91 "Nuove norme sulla cittadinanza"

Law June, 13 1912, n. 555 "Sulla cittadinanza italiana"

Law April, 21 1983, n. 123 "Disposizioni in materia di cittadinanza"

Italian consulates' offices websites

www.niaf.org

www.dualcitizenship.com

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Born in ITALY

Born in the U.S.A.

Were you born after January 1, 1948?

Were you born after January 1, 1948?

No

No

Yes

Yes

Was your father an Italian citizen at the time of your birth? ★

Was your father (or mother) an Italian citizen at the time of your birth? ★

Was your father an Italian citizen at the time of your birth? ★

Was your father (or mother) an Italian citizen at the time of your birth? ★

No

No

No

No

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ACQUISITION
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Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Did you become naturalized* as an American citizen?

Did you ever renounce* your right to Italian citizenship?

Yes

No

Yes

No

Before 1992?

No

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Yes

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* Naturalization: the process by which a person of foreign birth is granted full citizenship in his/her new country. In general, if your Italian parent became naturalized as an American citizen when you were a minor, you were naturalized, too, losing your previous Italian citizenship.



Go to the following page for further explanations.

* Renunciation: in your case, you can forfeit your Italian citizenship only by doing so explicitly in an Italian embassy or consulate.

Trace your

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Trace your

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★ Answer **Yes** if any of the following situations pertains to you:

- Your **father** was born in Italy and he did not become naturalized¹ as an American citizen before your birth. Your **paternal grandfather** was an Italian citizen at the time of his birth.
- Your **father** was born in the United States or in a Country other than Italy and he did not renounce² his right to Italian citizenship before your birth. Your **paternal grandfather** (or **grandmother** as an alternative if your father was born after January 1, 1948) was an Italian citizen at the time of your father's birth.
- Your **mother** (if you were born after January 1, 1948) was born in Italy and she did not become naturalized¹ as an American citizen before your birth. Your **maternal grandfather** was an Italian citizen at the time of her birth.
- Your **mother** (if you were born after January 1, 1948) was born in the United States or in a Country other than Italy and she did not renounce² her right to Italian citizenship before your birth. Your **maternal grandfather** (or **grandmother** as an alternative if your mother was born after January 1, 1948) was an Italian citizen at the time of your mother's birth.
- Your **paternal grandfather** (or **grandmother** as an alternative if your father was born after January 1, 1948) was born in the United States or in a Country other than Italy and he/she

neither renounce² his/her right to Italian citizenship before your father's birth nor did it your father before your birth. Your **paternal great grandfather** was Italian citizen at the time of your paternal grandfather's/grandmother's birth, and your grandfather or grandmother neither renounce² his/her right to Italian citizenship before your father's birth nor did it your father before your birth.

- Your **maternal grandfather** (if you were born after January 1, 1948) or **grandmother** (if your mother was born after January 1, 1948) was born in the United States or in a Country other than Italy and he/she neither renounce² his/her right to Italian citizenship before your mother's birth nor did it your mother before your birth. Your maternal great grandfather was an Italian citizen at the time of your maternal grandfather's/grandmother's birth.

¹ **Naturalization:** is the process by which a person of foreign birth is granted full citizenship in his/her new country.

In regards to naturalization, **before April 27th 1983**, minors were lost their Italian citizenship when their father was lost it, **regardless the position of the mother** (according to art. 12 of the law n. 555/1912). **After April 27th 1983**, when a new law came into effect (legge 123/1983), minors lost their Italian citizenship **only if both parents lost it**.

² **Renunciation:** in the cases above, it is only possible to do so explicitly in an Italian Embassy or Consulate

ACQUISITION

ACQUISITION

If the questionnaire indicates that you **ARE NOT** an Italian citizen: *What can you do to ACQUIRE Italian citizenship?* Choose one of the situations below that pertains to you and find out what you need to do within the law to acquire the Italian citizenship.

- Your father/mother/one of your grandparents was an Italian citizen at birth:
 - Acquisition by the benefit of law** (I - situation A)
 - Naturalization** (II - situation A)
- You were born in Italy and you legally and uninterruptedly resided there from birth up to legal age:
 - Acquisition by the benefit of law** (I - situation B)
- You are a legal-age person (21 years old up to March 10, 1975; 18 years old after March 10, 1975) adopted by an Italian citizen:
 - Naturalization** (II - situation B)
- You served Republic of Italy for a period of at least 5 years, even abroad:
 - Naturalization** (II - situation C)
- You are a citizen of a European Community member State:
 - Naturalization** (II - situation D)
- You were born in Italy :
 - Naturalization** (II - situation A)
- You married an Italian citizen:
 - Marriage to an Italian citizen**

- None of the situation above pertains to you:
Naturalization (II - situation E)

I - ACQUISITION BY THE BENEFIT OF LAW

Situation A

After having declared that you want to become an Italian citizen, you can obtain the citizenship:

- Serving in the Italian armed forces
- Becoming a subordinate employee of the Republic of Italy, even abroad
- Residing legally in Italy for at least two years after reaching legal age

The declaration must be presented to the Consular Office where you reside in the U.S.A, or to the Town Hall where you reside in Italy.

Situation B

You have to declare to the Town Hall where you reside in Italy that you want to become an Italian citizen within one year after reaching the legal age.

II - REQUIREMENTS FOR ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BY NATURALIZATION

Situation A

You have to legally reside in Italy for at least **three years**, and then you can **apply for naturalization**³.

Situation B

You have to legally reside in Italy for at least **five years** after the adoption, and then you can **apply for naturalization**³.

Situation C

You can immediately **apply for naturalization**³.

Situation D

You have to legally reside in Italy for at least **four years**, and then you can **apply for naturalization**³.

Situation E

You have to reside in Italy for at least **ten years**, and then you can **apply for naturalization**³.

III - MARRIAGE TO AN ITALIAN CITIZEN

If you are married to an Italian citizen, you may apply for Italian citizenship **after two years of marriage** if you and your spouse reside in Italy, and **after three years** of marriage if you and your spouse reside abroad. It is also necessary that the marriage did not end in dissolution, annulment or divorce and that the spouses are not separate. If there are children the terms are reduced by half.

The application must be addressed to the Ministry of the Interior, through the Prefettura of the Province where you reside in Italy or to the Consular Office where you reside abroad.

Before submitting the application the marriage must have already been registered at the Town Hall in Italy and the Italian spouse must be registered at the Italian Consulate as an "Italian Citizen residing abroad" (A.I.R.E.).

If a foreign woman has married an Italian citizen before April 27, 1983, she automatically acquires the Italian citizenship.

³ The application for naturalization must be addressed to the President of the Republic of Italy, through the Prefettura of the Province where you reside (if your case is "situation C", the application must be presented to the Consular office where you reside). The requirements include absence of criminal record, and sufficient income.

Note: the achievement of citizenship is not automatic, but discretionary: it is the Italian Central Administration that decides whether to give the citizenship or not.



REACQUISITION

If the questionnaire indicates that you **NO LONGER HAVE** your Italian citizenship.

If you renounced it, there are other ways to reacquire your Italian citizenship:

- **Serving the Italian armed forces**, after having declared that you want to reacquire Italian citizenship
- **Becoming a salaried employee** of Republic of Italy, even abroad, as well as declaring that you want to reacquire Italian citizenship
- Providing the Italian Consular office where you reside with a declaration stating your intention to reacquire Italian citizenship, as well as **establishing your residency in Italy** within one year from the declaration
- **Automatically**, after one year of residence in Italy, except in the case of renunciation within the same period

ITALIAN CITIZEN

The questionnaire shows you **ARE** an Italian citizen through ancestry (*jure sanguinis*).

Contact the Consular Office in order to be registered at the AIRE (Registry of Italian Resident Abroad).

If you became naturalized as an American citizen after 1992, you hold DUAL CITIZENSHIP (Italian and American).

REACQUISITION

If the questionnaire indicates that, by an uninterrupted line of descent, **YOU HAVE BEEN CONVEYED** Italian citizenship from your ancestor (*jure sanguinis*).

In order to have it recognized, contact the Italian Consular Office where you reside. The Italian Consular Office will tell you which documents you need to submit the application.



ITALIAN
CITIZEN

RECOGNITION



DOCUMENTATION



DOCUMENTATION

Here is a list of the most frequent documentation, which you will be asked to submit when you apply for Italian citizenship.

U.S. issued vital records (birth, marriage, and death certificates) to the subsequent registration in Italy must be in long form and bear the registrar's raised, embossed, impressed or multicolored seal and the date the certificate was filed with the registrar's office. Each document must also have affixed an [Apostille](#).

The Apostille is an international legalization (HAGUE Convention October 5, 1961) which will validate the certificates to be registered in Italy.

The Certificates must be formally requested at the Registry of Vital Records of the state where the birth, marriage or death occurred. The Apostille must also be requested by sending or bringing the original Certificate of Vital Records to the Secretary of State where the Certificate was issued.

The [Registries of Vital Records](#) and [Secretaries of State](#) for the Boston Consular jurisdiction are:

STATE	REQUEST CERTIFICATES	REQUEST APOSTILLE
<p>MICHIGAN</p> 	<p>Department of Public Health Registry of Vital Records and Statistics 3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Building P.O. Box 30195 Lansing, MI. 48909 Tel. (517) 335-8666 http://www.michigan.gov/mdch</p>	<p>Michigan Dept. Secretary of State Office of the Great Seal 7064 Crowner Blvd. Lansing, MI. 48918-1750 Tel. (517) 373-2531 http://www.sos.state.mi.us/greatse/index.html</p>

STATE	REQUEST CERTIFICATES	REQUEST APOSTILLE
 <p>OHIO</p>	<p>Ohio Department of Health P.O. Box 15098. Columbus, OH. 43215-0098 Tel. (614) 466-2531 http://www.odh.state.oh.us/</p>	<p>Ohio Secretary of State. Election Division 180 East Broad Street, 15th Floor Columbus, OH. 43215 Tel. (614) 466-2585 /www.state.oh.us/sos/election_services</p>
 <p>INDIANA</p>	<p>Vital Records 2 North Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN. 46204 Tel. (317) 233 1325 http://www.state.in.us/isdh/</p>	<p>Indiana Secretary of State 201 State House Indianapolis, IN. 46204 Tel. (317) 232-6531 http://www.state.in.us/sos/</p>
 <p>KENTUCKY</p>	<p>Vital Records 275 East Main Frankfort, KY. 40621 Tel. (502) 564-4212 http://publichealth.state.ky.us/</p>	<p>Secretary of State of R.I. Corporations Division 148 West River Street PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02904 Phone: 401-222-1487 notaries@sos.ri.gov</p>
 <p>TENNESSEE</p>	<p>Office of Vital Records Central Services Building, First Floor 421 5th Avenue North Nashville, TN. 37247-0450 Tel. (615) 532-2679 http://www.state.tn.us/health/vr/</p>	<p>Secretary of State Notary Division 312 Eight Avenue North 6th Floor - William R. Snodgrass Tower Nashville, TN. 37243 Tel. (615) 741-3699 http://www.state.tn.us/sos/</p>

- of the payment⁴ of Euro 200.00 and the following documents:
- *birth certificate of the applicant*;
 - *certified full copy of marriage certificate* issued by the Italian Town Hall;
 - *certificate of residence of the applicant*.
 - *certificate of citizenship of the Italian spouse (this will be issued by the consulate of residence at the time of application)*;
 - *certificat of family status* (same as above);
 - *Police Clearance or Certificate of criminal records*, issued by the central authority of each state of which the applicant has been a resident since the age of 14, accompanied by a translation into Italian.
 - *F.B.I. Clearance* with finger prints form (in addition to the above certificate/s), with translation into Italian.

If you and your spouse reside in Italy, you can apply for Italian citizenship after six month from the date of marriage. You will also need to supply the following:

- *certificato generale del casellario giudiziale* (Tribunale di Roma);
- *certificato dei carichi pendenti* (issued by the Court House of your place of residence);
- *valid passport and photocopy of pages containing photograph and other information (the copy will be certified by the consulate)*.

⁴ The fee must be paid prior to the presentation of the request, through international bank transfer or through Eurogiro network.
When making your payment use the following guidelines:
Beneficiary: **CONTO CORRENTE POSTALE "MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO D.L.C.I. - CITTADINANZA"**
IBAN code n. **IT54D076010320000000809020**
Reference of payment :

Italian citizenship through marriage

If you and your spouse reside abroad, you can apply for Italian citizenship after three years from the date of marriage, by presenting a request for naturalization accompanied by the receipt

- a. For citizenship by marriage please indicate: "ISTANZA DI CITTADINANZA PER MATRIMONIO"
 - b. For reacquisition of citizenship please indicate "ISTANZA DI RIACQUISTO CITTADINANZA"
 - c. For renouncing Italian citizenship please indicate "DICHIARAZIONE DI RINUNCIA ALLA CITTADINANZA"
- BIC/SWIFT code of Poste italiane:
- for international bank transfer: **BPPITRRXXX**
- for Eurogiro transactions: **PIBPITRA**

Reacquisition of Italian citizenship

The receipt of the payment⁴ of Euro 200.00 is required, as well as the following documents:

- *birth certificate;*
- *marriage certificate ad divorce (if applicable);*
- *copy of Italian passport (if available);*
- *certificate of naturalization (original plus a copy);*
- *U.S. passport or valid photo id;*
- *drivers licence as proof of residency in the jurisdiction of your consular office.*

Recognition of Italian citizenship

The documentation requested may change case by case. Here is a list of the documentation that you will be asked to submit if the ancestor who conveyed the Italian citizenship to you is your paternal grandfather.

- *your paternal grandfather's birth certificate (from Italy);*
- *your paternal grandmother's birth certificate;*
- *your grandparents' marriage certificate;*
- *your grandfather's certificate of naturalization;*
- *your father's birth certificate;*
- *your mother's birth certificate;*
- *your parents' marriage certificate;*
- *your birth certificate;*
- *the application for the recognition;*
- *declarations that you and your ascendants never renounced Italian citizenship before any Italian authority;*
- *death certificate relating to Italian born ascendants only.*

To find out if your ancestor became naturalized and to obtain a copy of the certificate of naturalization you must contact the following offices:

STATE	IMMIGRATION OFFICE HOMELAND SECURITY	NATIONAL ARCHIVES
<p>MICHIGAN</p> 	<p>US Immigration and naturalization service</p> <p>Detroit District Office 333 MT Elliott Detroit, Michigan 48207</p>	<p>The National Archives at Chicago 7358 South Pulaski Road Chicago, IL 60629-5898 Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center</p>
<p>OHIO</p> 	<p>Columbus Field Office.</p> <p>Leveque Tower 50 West Broad Street, Suite 306 Columbus, OH 43215.</p>	<p>The National Archives at Chicago 7358 South Pulaski Road Chicago, IL 60629-5898 Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center</p>
<p>INDIANA</p> 	<p>Indianapolis Field Office.</p> <p>Gateway Plaza Building 950 North Meridian Street, Room 400 Indianapolis, IN 46204.</p>	<p>The National Archives at Chicago 7358 South Pulaski Road Chicago, IL 60629-5898 Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center</p>
<p>KENTUCKY</p> 	<p>Louisville Field Office.</p> <p>Gene Snyder U.S. Courthouse and Custom House 601 West Broadway, Suite 390 Louisville, KY 40202</p>	<p>The National Archives at Chicago 7358 South Pulaski Road Chicago, IL 60629-5898 Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center</p>
<p>TENNESSEE</p> 	<p>Memphis Field Office.</p> <p>842 Virginia Run Cove Memphis, TN 38122.</p>	<p>The National Archives at Atlanta</p> <p>5780 Jonesboro Road Morrow, Georgia 30260</p>