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**Honorary Consul of Ireland**  
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## **A guide to applying for Irish citizenship through descent**

**Please mail your application to:**

**Consulate General of Ireland**  
**100 Pine Street, Suite 3350,**  
**San Francisco, CA 94111**

**Public Office hours:**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00am-12:30pm

Telephone number: (415) 392 4214

E-mail: [sanfrancongen@dfa.ie](mailto:sanfrancongen@dfa.ie)

[www.consulateofirelandsanfrancisco.org](http://www.consulateofirelandsanfrancisco.org)

**We accept FedEx, UPS, certified mail etc.**

**Delivery of application can be confirmed with the mail carrier directly**

It is not necessary to apply in person as applications  
will not be checked immediately upon receipt at the Consulate.

## Entitlement to Irish Citizenship

Every person born on the island of Ireland before 1 January, 2005 is entitled to be an Irish citizen.

A person born abroad to a parent, who, although not born in Ireland, was an Irish citizen at the time of the person's birth, can become an Irish citizen by applying for Foreign Birth Registration. In the case of most applicants for Foreign Birth Registration, the applicant's parents will have derived their Irish citizenship through an Irish-born parent (the applicant's grandparent).

However, a person can apply for Irish citizenship through FBR if their parent had attained Irish citizenship at the time of their birth through FBR, naturalization or through marriage.

Citizenship by descent (FBR) is acquired by making an application to register the applicant's birth in the Foreign Births Entry Book at the Irish Embassy or Consulate which has responsibility for the jurisdiction in which the applicant is currently resident.

### **Dual Citizenship**

Irish law permits dual citizenship and does not require applicants to renounce any other citizenship held at the time of application. Applicants should however, always clarify the position governing the adoption of a second citizenship with the authorities of their other country of citizenship.

## Documentary Requirements

### **FB1A Form**

This should be completed by all applicants over 18 years of age. Please ensure to enter all required details for the applicant, parent and grandparent. The form should be signed and dated in the presence of a witness who should also sign and date the form on the same day. The applicant must be personally known to the witness or introduced to the witness by a third party who is personally known to both the witness and the applicant. You cannot identify yourself to the witness by driver's license or passport. Please note that a Notary Public is not acceptable as a witness.

### **FB1B Form**

This should be completed for all applicants under 18 years of age. Please ensure to enter all required details for the applicant, parent and grandparent. Section D must be completed by the parent/guardian of the minor. The form should be signed and dated in the presence of a witness who should also sign and date the form on the same day. The applicant must be personally known to the witness or introduced to the witness by a third party who is personally known to both the witness and the applicant. You cannot identify yourself to the witness by driver's license or passport. Please note that a Notary Public is not acceptable as a witness.

### **Passport photos**

Two passport sized photos of the applicant are required. These must be signed and dated on the reverse by the witness to Section E of the application form. The date should be the same as on form FB1A/FB1B.

In the case of applicants under 18, two photos of the parent should also be signed and dated by the witness and submitted with the application.

### **Form 1**

This form should be completed by all applicants.

### **Documents relating to applicant**

- **State certified long form civil birth certificate**  
This certificate must include the parents' names, places of birth and ages at the time of the birth.
- **State certified long form civil marriage certificate/court order name change**  
This is required if the applicant has changed name since birth. A long form civil marriage certificate should include the couple's ages and places of birth and their parents' names.
- **Notarized copy of current ID**  
e.g. US passport, driver's license. In the case of minors, school ID or social security card are also acceptable.
- **Three proofs of current residence**  
e.g. utility bills, bank statements etc addressed to you at your residence. In the case of minors, items addressed to the parents are acceptable.

### **Documents relating to parent**

- **State certified long form civil birth certificate**  
This certificate must include the parents' names, places of birth and ages at the time of the birth.
- **State certified long form civil marriage certificate**  
This certificate must include the couple's places of birth, ages at the time of the marriage and parents' names.
- **Notarized copy of current ID or death certificate**  
Please do not submit an original driver's license or passport

If the applicant's parent is a citizen of Ireland other than by through their Irish-born parent (the applicant's grandparent), please submit evidence of their Irish citizenship e.g. FBR certificate, naturalization certificate, PNC certificate.

## **Documents relating to Irish born Grandparent**

- **State certified long form civil birth certificate**  
This certificate must include the parents' names, places of birth and ages at the time of the birth.
- **State certified long form civil marriage certificate**  
This certificate must include the couple's places of birth, ages at the time of the marriage and parents' names.
- **Notarized copy of current ID or death certificate**  
Please do not submit an original driver's license or passport

### **Note on documentary requirements**

The documents outlined above are required to prove the identity of the applicant and the relationship between the applicant, the parent and the Irish-born grandparent. The Consulate may request supplementary documentation when the supporting documents are unobtainable, inaccurate or ambiguous.

**All certificates submitted must be 'originals'** i.e. state issued, state certified copies bearing the raised seal of the issuing authority.

**Please submit one photocopy of each document with your application.**

Church certified baptism and marriage certificates may be considered only when an applicant can produce a statement from the relevant state authority to the effect that they have been unsuccessful in their search for a civil record.

Birth records have been maintained in Ireland since 1864 and copies may be obtained by applying to:

The General Register Office (GRO)  
Government Offices  
Convent Road  
Roscommon  
Ireland  
[www.GROireland.ie](http://www.GROireland.ie)

(full information on the GRO is enclosed)

## **Application Fee**

\$195 persons aged 18 and over  
\$80 persons under 18

Fees must be paid by money order, postal order or cashiers check and should be made payable to the Consulate General of Ireland. Personal checks are not accepted.

## **Application Processing**

Please note it is not possible to check the status of your citizenship application while it is in process as all citizenship applications submitted to this office are currently being processed by our head office in Dublin.

Once an application is approved, the applicant's name is entered into the Foreign Births Register and a certificate of citizenship is issued to the applicant. This is the applicant's proof of Irish citizenship.

The original documents submitted will be returned to the applicant along with the certificate of citizenship.

An application form for an Irish passport will also be sent with the certificate of citizenship and the Irish citizen can apply for an Irish passport, if they so wish. Please note that you cannot apply for an Irish passport until your FBR application has been processed.

**NO STATUS UPDATES WILL BE PROVIDED DURING PROCESSING.**

**Consulate General of Ireland  
100 Pine St, Suite 3350  
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CA 94111  
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