



Retaining Finnish citizenship at the age of 22

The information on this fact sheet is aimed at people who may lose their Finnish citizenship automatically at the age of 22 on grounds of multiple nationality. If you wish to retain your Finnish citizenship, follow the procedures described on this fact sheet.

The new Nationality Act came into effect on June 1, 2003. Detailed provisions on acquiring Finnish citizenship can be found in the Nationality Act (359/2003).

Citizenship requires genuine and sufficiently close ties between the individual and the State. If no such ties exist, there may be no point in retaining your citizenship.

Losing Finnish citizenship

You will lose your Finnish citizenship automatically when you turn 22 if:

- you also have citizenship of another country and
- your ties with Finland have not been sufficiently close.

If you lose your Finnish citizenship automatically, any children you may have at the time will not lose their Finnish citizenship at the same time.

How to retain Finnish citizenship

You may retain your Finnish citizenship on the basis of sufficiently close ties with Finland, which may be any of the following:

- you were born in Finland and are domiciled in Finland when you turn 22, or
- you have lived in Finland or another Nordic country (Denmark, Iceland, Norway or Sweden) for a total of seven years before your 22nd birthday, or
- you were issued a Finnish passport when you were 18-21 years old, or
- you have done your military or non-military service in Finland when you were 18-21 years old, or
- you have submitted a declaration at the age 18-21 to a Finnish diplomatic mission abroad (except honorary consulates) or a local register office in Finland that you wish to retain your Finnish citizenship. This is a free-form declaration and may be submitted in person or sent by post.

What to do if you have already lost your Finnish citizenship

You may regain your Finnish citizenship if you have lost it at the age of 22 for lack of sufficiently close ties with Finland but you were not notified in advance of losing your citizenship. To apply to regain your citizenship, fill out Directorate of Immigration form UVI 7, which can be downloaded from the Internet at www.uvi.fi or obtained from the police or the Directorate of Immigration in Finland or from Finnish diplomatic missions abroad. A processing fee will be charged for the application.

Notification concerning the risk of losing Finnish citizenship

Finnish citizens who have been domiciled in Finland for a total of less than seven years will be notified by the Directorate of Immigration of the risk of losing their Finnish citizenship and of the procedures for retaining citizenship.

Such notifications are sent out every year to persons turning 18 whose address has been entered in the population data register. This is why it is important for you to have up-to-date information on your address in the population data register. You can check the correctness of the information on your address at the local register office of the municipality where you last lived in Finland. If you do not know which municipality that was, you can ask the Helsinki Local Register Office to check it for you.

Whether a person automatically retains or loses his/her Finnish citizenship is entered in the population data register by the local register office. The person will also be notified of such an entry.

Further information

For further information on retaining or losing Finnish citizenship automatically, contact the Directorate of Immigration or the local register offices in Finland or Finnish diplomatic missions abroad.

Directorate of Immigration

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Websites of Finnish diplomatic missions abroad and local register offices in Finland:
<http://formin.finland.fi/edustustot>
www.maistraatti.fi