



WHAT IS **Spanish citizenship by choice?**

Choice of nationality is a benefit which Spanish legislation offers foreign citizens under certain conditions in order to acquire Spanish citizenship. The right to acquire Spanish citizenship by this method applies to:

- People who are or have been subject to the parental authority of a Spanish citizen.
- People whose father or mother was Spanish and born in Spain.
- People whose establishment of kinship (understood to be the establishment of who a person's parents are) or birth in Spain happened after they were 18 years old. In this case the time limit for opting for nationality is two years from the determination of kinship or birth.
- Persons who were adopted by Spanish subjects after the age of 18. In this case the right of choice exists until the interested party is 20.



Central Civil Register

C/ Bolsa, 1
28012 Madrid.
Opening times: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm,
Monday to Friday.

For more information:
www.mjusticia.es

Citizen Support Centre:
902 007 214

(Telephone service is only
available in Spanish)

Guide to access to the services of the **Central Civil Register**

C/ Bolsa, 1

**APPLICATION
FOR SPANISH
CITIZENSHIP
BY CHOICE**



NIPO: 051-10-008-0





WHAT IS the Central Civil Register?

The Register records the events and acts of marital status which are not the responsibility of other registries, or when exceptional circumstances mean that the corresponding registry is unable to record them; it also records events and acts of civil society affecting Spaniards abroad. Additionally, when a Consular Register is responsible for recording an event because it occurred abroad and the person affected is resident in Spain, this must first be registered in the Central Civil Register, and later transferred to the corresponding Consular Register.

The Central Register will also receive books consisting of duplicates of:

1. consular registrations.
2. Registrations of births registered in the Municipal Registries of the home country in the case of international adoption, and of foreign citizens who have acquired Spanish citizenship.
3. Registrations of Municipal Registries relating to judicial rulings affecting legal capacity, parental authority and custody of a minor, the care or administration of persons presumed incapable or minors not subject to legal custody, and the constitution and administration of protected assets.

WHO can apply?

An application for Spanish citizenship by choice can be made by various agents:

- By the legal representative of applicants under the age of 14 or with disabilities. In this case, the option requires the authorisation of the Civil Register Officer of the applicant's domicile, after the ruling of the Department of Public Prosecution. Such authorisation will be granted in the interests of the minor or disabled person.
- By the interested party, assisted by his legal representative, if older than 14 or, if with disabilities, if the degree of disability permits.
- By the interested party alone, if emancipated or aged over 18.
- By the interested party alone, within the two years following recovery of full capability.

HOW can I apply?

- Apply in person at the Municipal Civil Register of the interested party's place of residence, by virtue of the proximity principle. Applicants resident in Spain may also apply to the Central Civil Register (although in the case of those aged under 14, they must first obtain previous authorisation from the judge presiding the Municipal Civil Register of the interested party's domicile).

1 Time limit

The right to apply for Spanish citizenship by choice expires two years after the majority of the interested party, even if disabled, and in all cases this party must be subject at some time to the parental authority of a Spanish citizen.

However, according to article 20.3 of the Civil Code, people whose father or mother was originally Spanish and born in Spain are exempt from this expiry.

Documentation needed

The procedure begins with the presentation of documentation accrediting all these items at the relevant Civil Register, providing together with the information sheet:

- Identification documents of the applicant (National Identification Card, passport, etc.)
- Census Certificate in the town council of residency and any other document accrediting permanent and stable residency in Spain.
- Birth Certificate from the foreign Local Civil Register, legalised or, if applicable, with apostille and translated by a sworn translator when it has not been written in an official language of Spain.
- If applicable, full birth certificate issued by the Spanish Civil Register of the father or mother providing cause for Spanish citizenship.
- If the interested party is aged under 14, authorisation by the Official of the Civil Register of the domicile of the legal representatives applying for the option on behalf of the minor.

(These documents will be collected for purely informational purposes. At the time of classification any data deemed appropriate may be required by the senior judge presiding the registry classification or the Secretary of the Registry taking part in the proceedings).

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