

Irish Citizenship by Descent

The following is a summary of the main requirements for gaining Foreign Birth Registration.

Persons over 21 years of age who, having been born outside the Country, had a parent who was an Irish Citizen (otherwise than by birth in Ireland) can become an Irish Citizen by application for Foreign Birth Registration.

Subject to Foreign Birth registration, others who probably can claim Irish Citizenship are those Great Grandchildren who were born after 17 July 1956, and whose parent was registered as an Irish Citizen on the date of his/her birth, or was registered as an Irish Citizen prior to 30 June 1986.

Where registration is being sought on the basis of having an Irish born Grandparent, evidence proving descent from that Grandparent is required. The following documentation is required and approximately four months should be allowed for an application to be completed:

- **Applicant:**
 - Certified copy of birth certificate and, if applicable, marriage certificate.
 - 2 recent passport size photographs (signed and witnessed)
 - Any three proofs of identity from -
 - Current passport
 - Bank Account statement
 - Pay slip
 - Driver's Licence
 - Identity card with photograph
 - Phone, power or rate bill or similar.
- **Parent:**
 - Certified birth certificate and, if applicable, marriage certificate
 - Proof of identity (e.g. passport) or Certified copy of Death Certificate, as the case may be.
- **Grandparent:**
 - Certified birth certificate, and if applicable, marriage certificate.
 - However, if the birth was before the start of Civil Registrations in 1864 or a birth certificate cannot be traced in the civil register, then a Baptismal Certificate is acceptable (see last note below).
 - Proof of identity (e.g. passport) or Certified copy of death certificate, as the case may be.
- **Notes:**
 - Photocopies of documents are NOT accepted
 - Certificate must be issued by the Dept of Births, deaths and marriages and list parent's names.
 - For births not listed in the civil registers or for pre-1864 births, it is necessary to obtain a Form 24R from the Registrar stating that an unsuccessful search for the certificate was conducted and, when attached to a Baptismal Certificate, this constitutes adequate evidence of a birth in Ireland.