



Home Office

GUIDE RN

Declaration of Renunciation:

- British citizenship
- British overseas territories citizenship
- British Overseas citizenship
- British subject status
- British National (Overseas) status

This guide and the application form RN are for British citizens, British overseas territories citizens, British Overseas citizens, , British subjects and British Nationals (Overseas) who wish to renounce (give up) their citizenship or status.

This guide will help you to decide whether you can renounce your citizenship or status, and tells you how to do it.

If you have any questions:

If you are in the Channel Islands or Isle of Man you should contact the Lieutenant Governor's office.

If you are in a British overseas territory, contact the Governor's office.

If you are anywhere else including England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, please contact:

Email: NationalityEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Please quote any Home Office reference number of any previous application or correspondence.

WHAT THIS GUIDE CONTAINS

1. Explains who can renounce British nationality
2. Explains how to do it and what the effects are
3. Tells you how to fill in the form and what to send with it
4. Tells you where to send your form
5. Tells you what happens afterwards

The law covering renunciation is contained in the British Nationality Act 1981 and the Regulations made under it and (for renunciation of British National (Overseas) status) under the Hong Kong (British Nationality) Order 1986. The information in this leaflet is meant only as a brief guide to the law and to the Home Secretary's policy. It is not a comprehensive statement of either the law or the policy.

1 Who can renounce British nationality?

If you are a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British Overseas citizen, a British subject or a British National (Overseas), you may renounce your citizenship or status if:

- *EITHER* you already have some citizenship or nationality other than the British nationality that you wish to renounce. (But see note below).
- *OR* you can satisfy the Home Secretary, or Governor if you wish to renounce British overseas territories citizenship, that you will acquire another citizenship or nationality after renouncing, and
- you are of full age, i.e. aged 18 or over. (But if you are under 18 and have been married or in a civil partnership, you are treated as being of full age for this purpose), and
- you are of full capacity. The British Nationality Act 1981 defines full capacity as being “not of unsound mind”. We consider this requirement met if you have some understanding of the meaning and consequences of renunciation.

The Secretary of State or Governor has discretion to waive the requirement to be of full capacity if he thinks it is in the applicant’s best interests to do so. If you are completing this form on behalf of someone else who is not of full capacity and for whom you are responsible you should complete the form as fully as possible, and explain at part 7 of the form why it would be in the applicant’s best interests for him or her to renounce their citizenship, despite their inability to understand fully what is involved. The form should be supported by confirmation of the applicant’s mental condition and of the fact that they are in your care.

NOTES

- You should check whether you also need to renounce any other form of British nationality or citizenship of any other country.

Special Notes for British Nationals (Overseas) and former British Dependent Territories citizens by connection with Hong Kong.

- If you were a British Dependent Territories citizen by virtue only of a connection with Hong Kong, you ceased to be a British Dependent Territories citizen on 1 July 1997. If you had no other nationality or citizenship on that date, you automatically became a British Overseas citizen.
- A person who became a British National (Overseas) can only now be a British overseas territories citizen if he or she has that citizenship by a connection with a British overseas territory other than the former dependent territory of Hong Kong.
- The British overseas territories are currently:

Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the British Virgin Islands.

Note: Before 26 February 2002, British Overseas Territories and British Overseas Territories citizenship were called British Dependent Territories and British Dependent Territories citizenship respectively.

2 How to renounce British nationality

You can renounce your British citizenship, British Overseas Territories citizenship, British Overseas citizenship, British subject or British National (Overseas) status by completing the declaration of renunciation on form RN. If you hold more than one of these citizenships or status, apart from British overseas territories citizenship, you can renounce them all on one form. If you wish to renounce British overseas territories citizenship and another citizenship or status, you will need to complete two forms. This is because the application to renounce British overseas territories citizenship needs to be made to the Governor but all other renunciations are made to the Home Secretary.

You will cease to be a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizenship, a British Overseas citizen, a British subject or a British National (Overseas) on the date your declaration of renunciation is registered by the Home Secretary (or Governor if you are renouncing British overseas territories citizenship). This date will be shown on your copy of the form. (In war time the Home Secretary or Governor can withhold registration).

If your declaration is registered in the expectation of your acquiring another citizenship, but you do not do so within 6 months of the registration, the renunciation will not take effect, and you will be considered to have remained a British national as before.

NOTES

- A declaration of renunciation affects only the status of the person making the declaration and does not affect the current status of any other member of his or her existing family.
- A person who renounces British citizenship or British overseas territories citizenship has a right (once only) to resume that citizenship if the renunciation was necessary to enable him or her to keep or obtain some other citizenship. A person who renounces British citizenship or British overseas territories citizenship more than once, or for any other reason, may be allowed to resume that citizenship if the Home Secretary or Governor thinks fit. A person who renounces British Overseas citizenship, British subject or British National (Overseas) status cannot later resume that citizenship or status.
- A person who renounces their British citizenship will lose their right of abode in the United Kingdom, unless they also have that right as a Commonwealth citizen (see <https://www.gov.uk/right-of-abode/commonwealth-citizens>). If you renounce British citizenship and want to live in the UK you will need to apply under the Immigration Rules.

3 Filling in the form

If you wish to make a declaration of renunciation, fill in both the Official Copy and the Applicant's Copy of the form RN. It is important that the details given on both copies are exactly the same. Sign and date the declaration on both copies – If you do not complete the declaration part of the form, the declaration of renunciation will be invalid.

Part 7 – Countersignatory

To confirm that you are of full capacity (see section 1), this part must be filled in by a person who is at least 18 years of age and knows you personally.

WHAT YOU SHOULD SEND WITH THE FORM

The fee

The fee must be sent with the application form. Details of the current fee are available from our website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>.

Documents – Send evidence:

That you are a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British Overseas citizen, a British subject or a British National (Overseas) (depending upon which citizenship or status you wish to renounce).

- Normally, a passport will establish your citizenship or status. If you do not have one, you should send a birth certificate or a certificate of naturalisation or registration. If you have your citizenship or status through descent from a parent or grandparent, you should send documents proving that person's citizenship or status and your relationship to him or her.

EITHER that you have, or will have on making the declaration of renunciation, another citizenship or nationality.

- You should send a passport issued to you by the other country of which you are a national, or a statement by the authorities of that country that you are one of their nationals.

OR that you are about to become a citizen of another country.

- You should send a letter from the authorities of the country concerned confirming that you will be granted citizenship of that country when you have renounced British citizenship, British overseas territories citizenship, British Overseas citizenship, British subject status or British National (Overseas)

(if you are under 18) that you have been married or in a civil partnership.

- Send your marriage or civil partnership certificate.

Note: Information you give us will be treated in confidence, but may be disclosed to other Government Departments and agencies and local authorities to enable them to carry out their functions.

4 Where to send your form

Once you have completed and signed the application form and enclosed the documents, you must arrange to pay the correct fee. If you are paying by debit/credit card you should complete the payment slip attached to the fee leaflet. If you are paying by cheque you should ensure that funds are available in your account. Only cheques issued in sterling and drawn from a bank which has a UK based presence will be accepted. Those applying from overseas who wish to pay by cheque should therefore ensure that the issuing bank has a branch in the UK where the cheque can be cashed. Cash, transcash or postal orders are not accepted.

If your fee is paid through an account which belongs to someone else, please give their details in the space provided on the payment slip attached to the fee leaflet in case it is necessary to refund all or part of the fee.

If you are currently in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland send the form with the fee and supporting documents to:

Department 1
UKVI
The Capital
New Hall Place
Liverpool
L3 9PP

If you are currently in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man you should send them to the Lieutenant Governor.

If you are currently in a British overseas territory you should send them to the Governor.

If you are elsewhere, including in a Commonwealth country, you should send them to:

Department 1
UKVI
The Capital
New Hall Place
Liverpool
L3 9PP

For people in Hong Kong the law about where to send your application changed on 12 November 2015. If you are in Hong Kong you should send your application to the above address.

Applications for renunciation of British overseas territories citizenship are considered by the Governor of the relevant territory. All other renunciation applications are considered at the Home Office.

5 What happens afterwards?

After the declaration has been registered, the 'Applicant's Copy' of the form, officially signed and stamped, will be returned to you, together with the documents that you sent. This copy will be formal evidence that your declaration of renunciation has become effective.

If your declaration was registered in the expectation of your acquiring another citizenship, but you do not do so within 6 months of the registration, you should send your 'Applicant's Copy' of the form, together with a letter from the authorities of the other country concerned confirming that you have not acquired that country's citizenship, to the appropriate office mentioned in section 4. Your form will then be forwarded to the UK Visas and Immigration, or to the Governor of the relevant territory (if appropriate), and endorsed to show that your renunciation never took effect.