



Home Office

UK Border Agency

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 citizens, British overseas territories citizens, British Nationals (Overseas) and British subjects 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, and you are in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, please email or telephone the Liverpool Contact Centre:

Email: nationalityenquiries@ind.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone 0845 010 5200

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 elsewhere overseas, contact the nearest British Embassy, Consulate or High Commission.

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

- *EITHER* you already have some citizenship or nationality other than the citizenship or status 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 sound mind 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

- If you are a British citizen, you may also be a British overseas territories citizen, a British National (Overseas), a British Overseas citizen or a British subject under the 1981 Act. Please note in particular that if you were a British overseas territories citizen, a British Dependent Territories citizen, a British National (Overseas), or a British Overseas citizen and you were subsequently registered or naturalised as a British citizen, you did not lose your original citizenship automatically on registration or naturalisation. A British subject would have lost that status on acquiring another citizenship or nationality unless he or she was a British subject under section 31 of the Act (former citizens of Eire who were British subjects before 1949). You should therefore check whether you need to renounce any other citizenships you may have.

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, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, St. Helena and Dependencies, Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

Note: British Dependent Territories citizenship and the dependent territories are what British overseas territories citizenship and the British overseas territories were called before 26 February 2002.

2 How to renounce British nationality

You can renounce your British citizenship, British Overseas citizenship, British overseas territories citizenship, British National (Overseas) or British subject 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 would need to complete **two** forms.

You will cease to be a British citizen, a British Overseas citizen, a British overseas territories citizenship, a British National (Overseas) or a British subject 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 National (Overseas) or British subject status **cannot** later resume that citizenship or status.

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 – **NB. 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 www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk or by calling the Liverpool Contact Centre on 0845 010 5200.

Documents - Send evidence:

that you are a British citizen, a British Overseas citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British National (Overseas) or a British subject (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, a birth certificate or a certificate of naturalisation or registration should be sent. If you have your citizenship or status through descent from a parent or grandparent, you will need to 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 evidence such as 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 citizenship, British overseas territories citizenship, British National (Overseas) or British subject status.

(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

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

UK Border Agency
Department 1
PO Box 306
Liverpool
L2 0QN

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

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

If you are elsewhere, you should send them to the nearest British Consulate, Embassy or High Commission.

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 Border Agency, or to the Governor of the relevant territory (if appropriate), and endorsed to show that your renunciation never took effect.

