



Foreign Births Registration (Irish Citizenship by Descent)

Please note: the following information is intended for guidance only to apply for Irish citizenship through Foreign Births Registration. It does not constitute a formal interpretation of Irish law.

Eligibility:

Anyone born outside Ireland, whose father or mother is an Irish citizen, though not born in Ireland, can become an Irish citizen by having his or her birth entered in the Irish Register of Foreign Births. The citizenship in such cases is derived from the person (grandparent) who must have been born in Ireland and the following instructions detail the required documentation to support an application for citizenship through Foreign Births Registration. In the case your parent obtained Irish citizenship in another manner (e.g. marriage, adoption, naturalization or Foreign Births Registration) please contact the Consulate directly regarding eligibility and required documentation.

Please note: If your parent was born in Ireland this is not the appropriate application form. Please contact the Consulate at 617-267-9330, ext 10 if your parent was born in Ireland.

Dual Citizenship:

Irish law permits dual citizenship and does not require applicants to renounce any other citizenship held at the time of application. Applicants should always clarify the position governing the adoption of a second citizenship with the authorities of their other country of citizenship.

Processing of Applications:

The Irish Consulate in Boston can only accept applications from residents of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Proof of such residency will be required. If you are a resident of another state, please contact the Consulate/Embassy that covers your state of residence. You may find this office by visiting www.embassyofireland.org.

Complete applications will be processed as quickly as possible. However, applicants should allow up to six months (from the receipt of all necessary supporting documentation at the Consulate) to complete the registration process. Once the applicant has been entered in the Foreign Births Registry, the original documents will be returned by a courier service along with your Foreign Births Registration certificate. Upon receipt of the Foreign Births Registration Certificate, the citizen is then eligible to apply for an Irish passport. *Please note these are two separate processes and the Consulate cannot accept a passport application at the time of a citizenship application.*

All queries regarding Foreign Births Registration applications should be directed to 617-267-9330, ext. 11 between 9:00 – 12:00 and 2:00 – 5:00, Monday to Friday. Public office hours are 10:00 – 15:00. **Applications will be accepted by mail. Where an applicant wishes to submit his/her application in person it will be necessary to arrange an appointment. We regret that we cannot accept walk in submissions of Foreign Births Registration applications.**

Documentation Required in support of a Foreign Births Registration Application:

(each item listed below must be submitted)

Grandparent:

1. Full/long form Irish Birth Certificate
2. Marriage license application and Marriage Certificate – showing grandparents' names, places of birth and ages at the time of marriage, and showing great-grandparents' names and, if possible, places of birth. (*Please see note on required documentation for more information on acceptable marriage certificates*)
3. Death Certificate; or, if grandparent is still living an authenticated copy of grandparent's current ID (current drivers license or passport). This authenticated copy may be signed by your witness or notarized. *Please do not mail original ID.*

Parent:

4. Full/long form Birth Certificate showing grandparents' names, places of birth and ages at the time of birth. Birth Certificates which do not contain this information are not sufficient in themselves to establish a clear relationship to the Irish-born grandparent.
5. Marriage license application and Marriage Certificate, showing parents' names, places of birth and ages at the time of marriage and, showing grandparents' names and, if possible, places of birth. (*Please see note on required documentation for more info on marriage certificates*)
6. Death Certificate or an authenticated copy of parent's current ID (current drivers license or passport). This authenticated copy may be signed by your witness or notarized. *Please do not mail original ID.*

Applicant:

7. Correctly completed and witnessed Foreign Births Registration application.
 - Form FB1A should be completed for applicants 18 years of age and over.
 - Form FB1B should be completed for applicants under 18.
 - Section E of the application must be completed by any one of the listed professionals who is **PERSONALLY KNOWN** to you. You may not be identified to this person by a photo ID. However, you may be introduced to this person by a third party; that is, someone who is personally known to you **AND** the witness. *A notary public is not an acceptable witness.*
8. Two recent identical passport type photos, which must all be signed and dated on the reverse by the witness who completes Section E.
 - The date on the photos must match the date in Section D.
 - In the case of **minor applicants** (Form FB1B), two photos of the applicant/child **and** two photos of the declarant/parent must be submitted. All four photos must be signed and dated by the witness.
9. Full/long form Birth Certificate, showing parents' names, places of birth and ages at the time of birth. Birth certificates which do not contain this information are not sufficient in themselves to establish a clear relationship to the parent.
10. Change of name documentation – (if applicable) this may include a marriage certificate in the case the name was changed at the time of marriage, or a legal name change document issued by the courts.
11. Authenticated copy of your valid photo ID (state drivers license or US passport only). This notarized copy of photo ID must be submitted for all applicants regardless of age. This authenticated copy may be signed by your witness or notarized. *Please do not mail original ID.*
12. Two original proofs of residence at the address listed on the application. Acceptable proofs of residence include utility bills (gas, electric, cable, telephone, cell phone, etc), credit card bills, or bank statements. *For applicants under the age of 18, the proofs of residence may list the parents' names in lieu of the applicant's.* Driver's licenses are not acceptable proof of residence, they are only used for photo ID.

Note on Required Documentation:

The documents are requested to prove the identity of the applicant and the relationship between the applicant, the parent and the Irish-born grandparent. The documents listed above are required to accompany your application. Supplementary documentation will be requested when the supporting documents are unobtainable, inaccurate or ambiguous.

All certificates submitted must be 'originals' (i.e. state issued, state certified copies bearing the raised seal of the issuing authority); notarized copies of these documents will not be accepted in lieu of an original. Original documents in poor condition (i.e. torn, water damaged, etc.) may not be accepted. Laminated documents cannot be accepted. **Please provide one photocopy in addition to each original document submitted in support of your application.**

Marriage license applications and certificates are commonly issued on one document for marriages that took place within the last 30-40 years. Some civil authorities issue this document on two separate pages (i.e. New York City). Please ensure that the marriage certificate you present includes the bride and groom's details (ages, places of birth, and parents' names and places of birth) along with the date and location of the ceremony. If the marriage certificate that you are presenting lacks this information please obtain a letter from the civil issuing office confirming that the form you have is the most detailed form that can be issued.

Church issued baptismal records and marriage certificates will be accepted **only** when accompanied by an original letter from the state authority confirming that they have been unsuccessful in their search for the civil record.

Civil Birth Certificates have been maintained in Ireland since 1864. Copies may be obtained by applying to the Office of the Registrar General using the application form and information included with this application packet. If your grandparent was born before 1864, please contact the Consulate.

Application Fee:

The fees involved for registration in the Foreign Births Entry Book are as follows:

Applicants 18 years of age or over:	\$201.00	(\$186.00 Registration fee + \$15.00 courier fee)
Applicants under 18 years of age:	\$77.00	(\$62.00 Registration fee + \$15.00 courier fee)

Fees are inclusive of all postal and other communications costs. The fee may be paid by money order, postal order, or certified bank cheque made payable to 'The Consulate General of Ireland'.

Personal checks, credit card and cash payments cannot be accepted.

Submission of your Application:

Once you have completed the application form and compiled the necessary documents, you may submit the application through the mail or in person. Applications submitted in person are accepted by appointment only. We can accept FedEx, UPS or USPS deliveries. The delivery of your application can be confirmed with the mail carrier directly. If you would like to set up an appointment to submit your application in person, you may do so by dialing 617-267-9330. ext 11.

Posted applications should be addressed:

**Consulate General of Ireland
Attn: Citizenship Section
535 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116**

Did You Remember to Include:

Original proofs of residence *and* photocopy of each

One photocopy of *each* original document

Signed & dated photographs

Application Fee (no personal checks accepted)

Authenticated copy of all required photo IDs

(Signed by the witness or notarized -- Do not send any original IDs through the post)