LAW OF UKRAINE

On Citizenship of Ukraine

(Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy (V V R), 2001, N 13, p.65)

As amended in accordance with the Laws:
N 1014-V (1014-16) dated 11.05.2007, V V R, 2007, N 33, p.442

This Law determines, in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine (254к/96-BP), the legal content of the citizenship of Ukraine, the grounds and procedure for its acquisition and termination, the powers of the state authorities determining citizenship issues, the procedure for appealing against citizenship decisions, action or inaction of the state authorities and their officials and officers.

Section I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Definitions of terms

In this Law the terms listed below are used in the following meaning:

“citizenship of Ukraine” – a legal bond between a physical person and Ukraine, which finds its expression in their mutual rights and obligations;

“person” – a physical person;

“citizen of Ukraine” - a person who has acquired the citizenship of Ukraine according to the procedure provided for by the laws of Ukraine and international treaties of Ukraine;

“foreigner” - a person who is not a citizen of Ukraine and is a citizen (subject) of another state or states;

“stateless person” - a person who is not considered as a citizen by any state under its law;

“legal representatives” - parents, adopters, parents-caregivers, adoptive parents, patronage fosterers, guardians, custodians, representatives of institutions that perform duties of guardians and custodians (Paragraph seven of Article 1 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

“child” - a person under the age of 18;

“registration of the citizenship of Ukraine” - entering a record about acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by the special competent authority into relevant registers and documentation;
“lawful residence in the territory of Ukraine” - a residence in Ukraine of a foreigner or a stateless person whose former USSR citizen passport of the 1974 standard bear a stamp about permanent or temporary residential address registration in Ukrainian territory, or who have registered their national passport in the territory of Ukraine, or who have a permanent or temporary residence permit certificate or have been granted refugee status or asylum in Ukraine;

“continuous residence in the territory of Ukraine” - a residence of a person in Ukraine, if his/her single travel abroad for private purposes did not exceed the period of 90 days, an overall period of 180 days per year. A person’s travel abroad for the purposes of business trip, study, vacation, medical treatment following recommendations of the relevant medical institution or a person’s change of the place of residence within the territory of Ukraine shall not be the violation of requirements for continuous residence in the territory of Ukraine;

“obligation to terminate foreign citizenship” - a written declaration of a foreigner that in case of acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine he/she will terminate the citizenship of (allegiance to) another state or the citizenships of (allegiance to) other states and within two years following his/her acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine will submit the document on termination of the citizenship of (allegiance to) another state or the citizenships of (allegiance to) other states to the authority that has issued him/her temporary certificate of a citizen of Ukraine; (Paragraph twelve of Article 1 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

“reason beyond a person’s control for a failure to obtain a document on termination of foreign citizenship” - a failure to issue a document on termination of the citizenship of (allegiance to) another state to the person whose application on termination of foreign citizenship (allegiance) was admitted by the competent authorities of his/her country of citizenship (allegiance) within the period established by the legislation of a relevant foreign state (unless the person was denied the termination of citizenship (allegiance)), or within two years following the date of submitting the application, if no such period is established, or the absence of the procedure for citizenship termination on person’s own initiative in legislation of relevant foreign state or in case such procedure is not carried out, or if the cost for formalizing of foreign citizenship (allegiance) termination exceeds half of the minimum wage established by the Law of Ukraine on the moment of person’s acquisition of citizenship of Ukraine; (Paragraph thirteen of Article 1 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005);

“legal livelihoods” - wages, revenues from business or property, pension, scholarship, alimony, social welfare support and benefits, personal financial savings or financial aid from family members and other physical or legal persons that have legal income;

“international treaty of Ukraine” - an international treaty that has been ratified as binding by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;

“declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship” - a document in which the foreigner committed to terminate his/her foreign citizenship, and where there are reasons beyond his/her control for failure to obtain a document on termination of foreign citizenship (allegiance) or citizenships (allegiances), testifies on his/her renunciation of foreign citizenship of (allegiance to) another state or foreign citizenships of (allegiances to) other states; (Paragraph sixteen of Article 1 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

“declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship of a person granted refugee status or asylum in Ukraine” - a document in which the foreigner who has been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine testifies on his/her renunciation of the citizenship of (allegiance to) another state, which is considered his/her country of citizenship in accordance with the Law of Ukraine On Refugees (2557-14); (Article 1 is supplemented by the paragraph in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)
“declaration on the absence of foreign citizenship” - a document wherein a person notifies on the absence of his/her foreign citizenship (allegiance) or foreign citizenships (allegiances) substantiating the reasons of such absence; (Paragraph eighteen of Article 1 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

{Paragraph nineteen of Article 1 was excluded on the basis of the Law N 5492-VI (5492-17) dated 20.11.2012}

“temporary certificate of a citizen of Ukraine” - a document identifying the person and confirming such person’s affiliation to Ukrainian citizenship.

**Article 2. Principles of Ukrainian Legislation on Citizenship**

The Legislation of Ukraine on Citizenship is based on the following principles:

1) single citizenship - citizenship of the State of Ukraine that rules out the possibility for existence of a citizenship of administrative-territorial units of Ukraine. If a citizen of Ukraine has acquired the citizenship of (allegiance to) another state or states, then in legal relations with Ukraine such person shall be recognized as a citizen of Ukraine only. If a foreigner has acquired the citizenship of Ukraine, then in legal relations with Ukraine he/she shall be recognized as a citizen of Ukraine only;

2) preventing statelessness;

3) non-depriving the Ukrainian citizen of the citizenship of Ukraine;

4) recognizing of the right of Ukrainian citizen to change citizenship;

5) non-automatic acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by a foreigner or a stateless person due to marriage with Ukrainian citizen or acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by his/her spouse and non-automatic termination of Ukrainian citizenship by any of the spouses due to termination of marriage or termination of Ukrainian citizenship by the other spouse.

6) equality of Ukrainian citizens before the law, regardless of the grounds, procedure and the moment of acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship.

7) retention of Ukrainian citizenship regardless of Ukrainian citizen's place of residence.

**Article 3. Citizenship of Ukraine**

Citizens of Ukraine shall be:

1) all citizens of the former USSR permanently residing in the territory of Ukraine at the moment of declaration of the independence of Ukraine (August 24, 1991);

2) persons residing in Ukraine and not being Ukrainian citizens or citizens of other states at the moment of entry into force of the Law of Ukraine On Citizenship of Ukraine (1636-12) (November 13, 1991), regardless of their race, skin colour, political, religious and other beliefs, sex, ethnic and social origin, property status, place of residence, linguistic or other features;

3) persons who arrived in Ukraine for permanent residence after November 13, 1991, and whose passport of former USSR citizen of the 1974 standard bears inscription “Citizen of Ukraine” made by Ukrainian bodies for internal affairs, and children of such persons, who arrived in Ukraine with their parents and at the time of their arrival in Ukraine having not reached full age, if those abovementioned persons submitted their application for formalizing Ukrainian citizenship; (Clause 3 of the first part of Article 3 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)
4) persons who acquired citizenship of Ukraine in accordance with the laws of Ukraine and international treaties of Ukraine.

Persons mentioned in clause 1 of the first part of this Article shall be Ukrainian citizens since 24 August 1991, persons mentioned in clause 2 - since 13 November 1991, persons mentioned in clause 3 - since the moment when the inscription about Ukrainian citizenship was made.

**Article 4. Legislation on citizenship of Ukraine**

Ukrainian citizenship issues shall be governed by the Constitution of Ukraine (254к/96-ВР), this Law and international treaties of Ukraine.

Should the international treaty of Ukraine establish rules other than those contained herein, the rules of international treaty shall apply.

**Article 5. Documents Confirming Citizenship of Ukraine**

The following documents shall confirm the citizenship of Ukraine:

1) passport of the citizen of Ukraine;

3) passport of the citizen of Ukraine for travelling abroad;

4) temporary certificate of the citizen of Ukraine;

6) diplomatic passport;

7) service passport;

8) seafarers' identity document;

9) crew member certificate;

10) certificate for return to Ukraine.

**Section II**

**ACQUISITION OF THE CITIZENSHIP OF UKRAINE**

**Article 6. Grounds for Acquisition of the Citizenship of Ukraine**

The citizenship of Ukraine shall be acquired:

1) at birth;

2) by territorial origin;

3) by virtue of admission to the citizenship;
4) due to restoration of the citizenship;

5) due to adoption;

6) due to establishment of guardianship or custody of a child, placement of a child into a child-care or healthcare facility, family-type children's home or adopting family or due to foster placement of a child into a patronage fosterer family; (Clause 6 of Article 6 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

7) due to establishment of a guardianship of a person recognized incapable by the court;

8) due to either or both child's parents being citizens of Ukraine;

9) due to recognition of paternity or maternity or due to establishment of the fact of paternity or maternity; (Clause 9 of Article 6 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

10) on other grounds provided for by international treaties of Ukraine.

Article 7 Acquisition of the Citizenship of Ukraine at Birth

A person whose parents or either parent were citizens of Ukraine at the moment of his/her birth shall be a citizen of Ukraine.

A person born on the territory of Ukraine to stateless persons lawfully residing within Ukraine’s territory shall be a citizen of Ukraine.

A person, who was born outside Ukraine to stateless persons permanently and lawfully residing within the Ukraine’s territory, and who failed to acquire the citizenship of another state at his/her birth, shall be a citizen of Ukraine.

A person, who was born in the territory of Ukraine to foreigners lawfully residing within Ukraine’s territory, and who failed to acquire the citizenship of either parent at birth, shall be a citizen of Ukraine. (Part four of Article 7 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

A person, who was born within the territory of Ukraine to parents, one of whom was granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine, and who failed to acquire the citizenship of either parent at birth, or who at birth acquired the citizenship of the parent granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine, shall be a citizen of Ukraine.

A person, who was born in the territory of Ukraine to a foreigner and a stateless person lawfully residing within Ukraine’s territory, and who failed to acquire at birth the citizenship of his/her parent being a foreigner, shall be a citizen of Ukraine. (Part six of Article 7 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005).

A new-born child found in the territory of Ukraine (a foundling), whose both parents are unknown, shall be a citizen of Ukraine.

A person entitled for acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine at birth shall be a citizen of Ukraine from the moment of his/her birth.

Article 8. Acquisition of the Citizenship of Ukraine by Territorial Origin

A person who himself/herself or at least one of whose parents, grandfather or grandmother, sibling (full or half), son or daughter, or grandchild was born or resided permanently until 24 August
1991 in the territory that became the territory of Ukraine in accordance with the Law of Ukraine On Succession of Ukraine (1543-12), or a person who himself/herself or at least one of whose parents, grandfather or grandmother, sibling (full or half) was born or resided permanently on other territories being, at the time when they were born or during their permanent residence, a part of either Ukrainian People’s Republic, West Ukrainian People’s Republic, Ukrainian State, Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic, Transcarpathian Ukraine, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (Ukr.S.S.R.), and is a foreigner who has submitted an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship, or is a stateless person and has submitted an application for acquiring Ukrainian citizenship, shall be registered as a citizen of Ukraine as well as his/her underage children. Foreigners, who are the citizens (subjects) of multiple states, shall submit an obligation to terminate the citizenship of all such states. Foreigners, who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine, shall submit a declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship of a person granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine instead of an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship. (Part one of Article 8 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

A child, who was born or resided permanently in the territory of Ukr.S.S.R. (or at least one of whose parents, grandfather or grandmother was born or resided permanently in the territories mentioned in the first part of this Article), and is a stateless person or a foreigner, in regard of whom an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship has been submitted, shall be registered as a citizen of Ukraine upon application of one of his/her parents, guardian or custodian. (Part two of Article 8 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

A child, who was born in the territory of Ukraine after 24 August 1991 and failed to acquire the citizenship of Ukraine at birth and is a stateless person or a foreigner, in regard of whom an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship has been submitted, shall be registered as a citizen of Ukraine upon application of one of his/her legal representatives. (Part three of Article 8 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

(Part four of Article 8 is excluded on the basis of the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

Foreigners mentioned in parts one - three of this Article, who have submitted an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship, shall submit a document about this to a competent authority of Ukraine, which was issued by a competent authority of the relevant state within two years following the moment of their registration as citizens of Ukraine. Foreigners shall submit a declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship in case of failure to obtain such document for the reasons beyond control of foreigners having all the grounds for obtaining such document envisaged by the legislation of a relevant state. (Part five of Article 8 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

Submission of an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship shall not be required for foreigners, who are citizens (subjects) of the states, the legislation of which provides for automatic termination of the citizenship of (allegiance to) these states at the same time as acquiring another state’s citizenship, or where the international treaties of Ukraine with other states, whose citizenship the foreigners have, provide for termination by persons of their citizenship of these states at the same time as acquiring Ukrainian citizenship, neither it shall be required for the persons who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine and for stateless persons. (Part six of Article 8 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

The date of acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine in the cases provided for in this Article shall be the date of registration of acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship by the person.

A person who has acquired the citizenship of Ukraine and submitted a declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship shall be obliged to return his/her passport of a foreign state to the competent authorities of this state. Requirement on undertaking obligation to return of a foreign state’s passport shall not apply to persons, who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or
asylum in Ukraine. (Part eight of Article 8 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

**Article 9. Admission to the Citizenship of Ukraine**

A foreigner or a stateless person can be admitted to the citizenship of Ukraine upon their applications.

Requirements for admission to the citizenship of Ukraine shall be:

1) recognition and observance of the Constitution of Ukraine (254k/96-BP) and Ukrainian laws;

2) submission of a declaration on absence of foreign citizenship (for stateless persons) or an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship (for foreigners).

Foreigners being citizens (subjects) of multiple states shall submit an obligation to terminate the citizenship of (allegiance to) these states.

Foreigners who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine shall submit a declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship of a person granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine, instead of an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship.

Submission of an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship shall not be required for foreigners who are citizens (subjects) of the states, the legislation of which provides for automatic termination of the citizenship of (allegiance to) these states at the same time as acquiring the citizenship of another state, where the international treaties of Ukraine with other states, whose citizenship the foreigners have, provide for the termination of the citizenship of these states at the same time as acquiring Ukrainian citizenship.

Foreigners, who have submitted an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship, shall submit a document about this to a competent authority of Ukraine, which was issued by the competent authority of the relevant state within two years following the moment of their registration as Ukrainian citizens. Foreigners shall submit a declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship in case of failure to obtain such document for the reasons beyond control of foreigners having all the grounds for obtaining such document envisaged by the legislation of a relevant state. (Clause 2 of second part of Article 9 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

3) continuous lawful residence in the territory of Ukraine during the last five years.

This requirement shall not apply to the foreigners or stateless persons who have been married to a citizen of Ukraine for over two years, and to the foreigners or stateless persons who were married to a citizen of Ukraine for over two years and whose marriage has been terminated because of the latter's death. The two-year period for being married to a citizen of Ukraine shall not apply to foreigners and stateless persons who were granted a permit for immigration in accordance with the clause 1 in part three of Article 4 of the Law of Ukraine On Immigration. (Second paragraph of clause 3 of the part two of Article 9 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005).

The period of lawful continuous residence in the territory of Ukraine established for the persons, who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine, shall be three years after granting them refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine, and for those who have arrived in Ukraine as stateless persons - three years after entry in Ukraine. (Third paragraph of clause 3 of the part two of Article 9 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005).

The period of lawful continuous residence in the territory of Ukraine established for foreigners and stateless persons performing military service in armed forces of Ukraine under the contract, pursuant
to the procedure stipulated by Ukrainian legislation, is three years since the entry into force of the contract on performing military service in armed forces of Ukraine; (Clause 3 of the part two of Article 9 is supplemented by paragraph four in accordance with the Law N 957-VIII (957-19) dated 28.01.2016)

4) obtaining a permit for immigration. {First paragraph of clause 4 of the part two of Article 9 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005}

This requirement shall not apply to the persons who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine and to foreigners and stateless persons performing military service in armed forces of Ukraine pursuant to the procedure established by the legislation of Ukraine, or to those who arrived in Ukraine for permanent residence before the entry into force of the Law of Ukraine On Immigration (2491-14) (August 7, 2001), and have a stamp of residential address registration in a former USSR citizen passport of the 1974 standard, or have obtained a certificate for permanent residence in Ukraine; {Second paragraph of clause 4 in the part two of Article 9 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005; as amended in accordance with the Law N 957-VIII (957-19) dated 28.01.2016}

5) speaking the state language or understanding it to the extent sufficient for communication. This requirement shall not apply to physically handicapped persons (blind, deaf, dumb).

6) existence of the legal livelihoods. This requirement shall not apply to the persons who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine.

Provisions provided by clauses 3 - 6 of the second part of this Article shall not apply nor to the persons who have rendered exceptional services to Ukraine, including foreigners and stateless persons performing military service in armed forces of Ukraine pursuant to the procedure established by the legislation of Ukraine and who have been awarded by the State award, neither to the persons, whose admission to the citizenship of Ukraine is of national interest to Ukraine. {Third part of Article 9 as amended in accordance with the Law N 957-VIII (957-19) dated 28.01.2016}

Admitting to the citizenship of Ukraine a child residing in Ukraine, one of whose parents or other person being the child’s legal representative in accordance with this Law and having a permit for immigration to Ukraine shall be carried out without due account being taken of requirement provided by clauses 1, 3 – 6 of the second part of this Article. A permit for immigration to Ukraine shall not be required if the child’s legal representative is a person who has been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine, or a foreigner or a stateless person who has arrived in Ukraine for permanent residence before the entry into force of the Law of Ukraine On Immigration (2491-14) (August 7, 2001), and has a stamp of residential address registration in a former USSR citizen passport of the 1974 standard, or has obtained a certificate for permanent residence in Ukraine. {Part four of Article 9 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005}

A person shall not be admitted to the citizenship of Ukraine, if this person:

1) has committed a crime against humanity or genocide;

2) is sentenced to deprivation of liberty in Ukraine for commitment of serious or particularly serious crime (until cancellation or expungement of conviction) with due account to the level of threat for national security of the State; (Clause 2 of the part five of Article 9 as amended in accordance with the Laws N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005, N 3575-VI (3575-17) dated 05.07.2011)

3) has committed an act in the territory of another state that is recognized as serious or particularly serious crime by the legislation of Ukraine. (Clause 3 of the part five of Article 9 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)
A person who has acquired the citizenship of Ukraine and has submitted a declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship shall be obliged to return his/her passport of a foreign state to the competent authorities of this state. Requirement on undertaking obligation to return of a foreign state's passport shall not apply to the persons, who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine. (Part six of Article 9 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

In cases specified by this Article the date of acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship shall be the date of issue of relevant Decree of the President of Ukraine.

Article 10. Restoration of the Citizenship of Ukraine

A person who has terminated the citizenship of Ukraine, is a stateless person and has submitted an application on restoration of Ukrainian citizenship, shall be registered as a citizen of Ukraine, regardless of whether he/she permanently resides in Ukraine or abroad, unless the circumstances specified in part five of Article 9 of this Law are present. (Part one of Article 10 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

A person, who has acquired foreign citizenship (allegiance) or foreign citizenships (allegiances) after terminating Ukrainian citizenship, and has returned for permanent residence to Ukraine and has submitted the application for restoration of Ukrainian citizenship and the obligation to terminate foreign citizenship, shall be registered as a citizen of Ukraine, unless the circumstances specified in part five of Article 9 of this Law are present. A foreigner who is a citizen (subject) of multiple states shall submit an obligation to terminate the citizenship of all such states. A foreigner, who has been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine, shall submit a declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship of a person granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine, instead of an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship. A foreigner, who has submitted an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship, shall submit a document about this to a competent authority of Ukraine, which was issued by a competent authority of the relevant state within two years following the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship. A foreigner shall submit a declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship in case of failure to obtain such document for the reasons beyond control of the foreigner having all the grounds for obtaining such document envisaged by the legislation of a relevant state. (Part two of Article 10 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

(Part three of Article 10 is excluded on the basis of the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

Submission of an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship shall not be required for the citizens (subjects) of states, the legislation of which provides for automatic termination citizenship of (allegiance to) these states at the same time as acquiring another state’s citizenship, if international treaties of Ukraine with other states, the citizenship of which the foreigners have, provide for the termination of citizenship of these states at the same time as acquiring Ukrainian citizenship, neither shall it be required for the persons who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine and for stateless persons. (Part four of Article 10 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

The citizenship of Ukraine shall not be restored for those persons, who have lost the citizenship of Ukraine due to its acquisition by fraud, deliberate submission of false information or false documents, or in regard of whom the decisions to formalize the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship were revoked under Article 21 of this Law. (Part five of Article 10 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

In the cases provided for by this Article, the date of acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship shall be the date of registration of acquisition by person the citizenship of Ukraine.
A person, who has acquired the citizenship of Ukraine and has submitted a declaration on renunciation of foreign citizenship, shall be obliged to return his/her passport of a foreign state to the competent authorities of this state. Requirement on undertaking obligation to return of a foreign state’s passport shall not apply to persons, who have been granted refugee status in Ukraine or asylum in Ukraine. (Part seven of Article 10 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

Article 11. Acquisition of the Citizenship of Ukraine by Children due to their Adoption

A child who is a foreigner or a stateless person and who is adopted by citizens of Ukraine or by spouses one of which is the citizen of Ukraine and the other is a stateless person shall become a citizen of Ukraine since the entry into force of the decision on adoption regardless of whether he/she permanently resides in Ukraine or abroad.

A child who is a stateless person or a foreigner and who is adopted by spouses, one of which is the citizen of Ukraine and the other is a foreigner, shall become a citizen of Ukraine since the entry into force of the decision on adoption, regardless of whether he/she permanently resides in Ukraine or abroad.

A person of full age, who is stateless and resides permanently in the territory of Ukraine and is adopted by citizens of Ukraine or by spouses, one of which is the citizen of Ukraine, shall become a citizen of Ukraine since the entry into force of the court’s decision on adoption. (Article 11 is supplemented by part three in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

Article 12. Acquisition of the Citizenship of Ukraine due to Establishing of Guardianship or Custody of a Child, Placing a Child into a Child-Care or Healthcare Facility, Family-type Children’s Home or Adopting Family or due to Foster Placement of a Child in a Patronage Fosterer Family

A child, who is a foreigner or a stateless person, and guardianship or custody of whom has been established, where a citizen of Ukraine or persons, one of which is a citizen of Ukraine and the other is a stateless person have been appointed as a guardian or custodian, shall become a citizen of Ukraine since the adoption of the decision on establishment of guardianship or custody, or since the entry into force of the court’s decision on establishment of guardianship or custody.

A child, who resides in the territory of Ukraine and is a stateless person or a foreigner, and a guardianship or custody of whom have been established, where the persons, one of which is a citizen of Ukraine and the other is a stateless person, have been appointed as a guardian or a custodian, shall become a citizen of Ukraine since adoption of the decision on establishment of guardianship or custody, or since the entry into force of the court's decision on establishment of guardianship or custody, if such child does not acquire the citizenship of the guardian or custodian who is a foreigner.

A child, who is a foreigner or a stateless person and resides permanently in a child-care or healthcare facility, the administration whereof performs the duties of a guardian or custodian in relation to such child, shall become a citizen of Ukraine since the moment of his/her placement into the relevant facility, if his/her parents are dead, deprived of parental rights, recognized as missing or incapable, declared dead, or in case of failure to find parents of separated from family child.

A child, who is a foreigner or a stateless person and is raised in a family-type children’s home, adopting family, patronage fosterer family, where at least one of the fostering parents or adoptive parents or patronage fosterers is the citizen of Ukraine, shall become a Ukrainian citizen since the moment of placement such child to the relevant family-type children's home or adopting family, or since the moment of foster placement such child in a patronage fosterer family, if his/her parents are dead, deprived of parental rights, recognized as missing or incapable, declared dead, or in case of failure to find parents of separated from family child. (Article 12 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)
**Article 13.** Acquisition of the Citizenship of Ukraine by a Person Recognized Incapable by the Court due to Establishment of Guardianship of such Citizen of Ukraine

A foreigner or a stateless person, who resides lawfully in Ukraine and is recognized incapable by the court and as a citizen of Ukraine, guardianship of whom is established, shall acquire the citizenship of Ukraine since the entry into force of the decision on establishment of guardianship.

**Article 14.** Acquisition of the Citizenship of Ukraine by a Child due to the Citizenship of Ukraine of his/her Parents or One of his/her Parents

A child who is a foreigner or stateless person and one of whose parents is a citizen of Ukraine and the other is a stateless person, shall be registered as a citizen of Ukraine upon application of the parent being a citizen of Ukraine.

A child who is a stateless person, and one of whose parents is a citizen of Ukraine and the other is a foreigner, shall be registered as a citizen of Ukraine upon application of the parent being a citizen of Ukraine.

A child who is a foreigner or stateless person, and both of whose parents are citizens of Ukraine, shall be registered as a citizen of Ukraine upon application of either parent.

A child, who is a foreigner, and one of whose parents is a citizen of Ukraine and the other is a foreigner, shall be registered as a citizen of Ukraine upon application of the parent being a citizen of Ukraine. (Article 14 is supplemented by the part in accordance with Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

In the cases provided for by this Article, the date of acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship shall be the date of registration of acquisition by person the citizenship of Ukraine.

**Article 15.** Acquisition of the Citizenship of Ukraine due to Recognition of the Paternity or Maternity or Establishment of the Fact of Paternity or Maternity

In case of recognition of paternity of a child, whose mother is a foreigner or stateless person, and whose father, recognized as such, is a citizen of Ukraine, the child shall acquire the citizenship of Ukraine regardless of a place of his/her birth or place of permanent residence.

In case of recognition of maternity of a child, whose father is a foreigner or stateless person, and whose mother, recognized as such, is a citizen of Ukraine, the child shall acquire the citizenship of Ukraine regardless of a place of his/her birth and place of permanent residence.

In case of establishment of the fact of paternity of a child, whose mother is a foreigner or stateless person, provided child's father was a citizen of Ukraine, the child shall acquire the citizenship of Ukraine regardless of a place of his/her birth and place of permanent residence.

In case of establishment of the fact of maternity of a child, whose father is a foreigner or stateless person, provided child's mother was a citizen of Ukraine, the child shall acquire the citizenship of Ukraine regardless of a place of his/her birth and place of permanent residence.

If recognition of paternity or maternity, or establishment of the fact of paternity or maternity took place after the child has reached full age, such person being stateless shall acquire the citizenship of Ukraine regardless of a place of birth and place of permanent residence under the conditions provided for in parts one - four of this Article.

If recognition of paternity or maternity, or establishment of the fact of paternity or maternity took place after the child has reached full age, such person being a foreigner shall acquire the citizenship
of Ukraine regardless of a place of birth and place of permanent residence under the conditions provided for in parts one - four of this Article, if such person has submitted an application for acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine and an obligation to terminate foreign citizenship.

In cases provided for by parts one - five of this Article, the date of acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine shall be the date of the child's (person's) birth, or the date of acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine by a father or mother, whose paternity (or maternity) was recognized, or in relation to whom the fact of paternity or maternity was established, if such father or mother has acquired the citizenship of Ukraine after the child's (person's) birth.

In case provided for by part six of this Article the date of acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine shall be the date of registration of acquisition by the person of the citizenship of Ukraine. (Article 15 hereof is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

Article 16. Requirement of the Children's Consent While Acquiring the Citizenship of Ukraine

Acquisition of the citizenship of Ukraine by children aged 14 to 18 can take place with their consent only. (Article 16 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005).

Section III

TERMINATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENSHIP AND REVOCATION OF DECISIONS ON ACQUISITION OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENSHIP

Article 17. Grounds for Termination of the Citizenship of Ukraine

The citizenship of Ukraine shall be terminated:

1) due to withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine;

2) due to loss of the citizenship of Ukraine;

3) on the grounds provided for by international treaties of Ukraine.

Article 18. Withdrawal from the Citizenship of Ukraine

A citizen of Ukraine, who is a person permanently residing abroad in accordance with the current legislation of Ukraine, may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine upon his/her application. (Part one of Article 18 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

If a child together with his/her parents has left for permanent residence abroad and the parents withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine, the child also may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine together with his/her parents upon application by either of the parents.

If one of a child's parents left for permanent residence abroad together with his/her child and withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine, while other parent remains a citizen of Ukraine, the child may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine together with the parent withdrawing from the citizenship of Ukraine upon his/her application.

If one of a child's parents has left for permanent residence abroad together with his/her child and withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine, and the other parent is a foreigner or a stateless person, the child may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine together with the parent withdrawing from the citizenship of Ukraine upon his/her application.
If a child has left for permanent residence abroad and his/her parents withdrew from the citizenship of Ukraine, the child may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine upon application by either of the parents.

If a child has left for permanent residence abroad with one of the parents and this parent withdrew from the citizenship of Ukraine while the other parent is a citizen of Ukraine, the child may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine upon application by the parent having withdrawn from the citizenship of Ukraine.

If a child has left for permanent residence abroad with one of the parents and this parent withdrew from the citizenship of Ukraine while the other parent is a foreigner or stateless person the child may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine upon application by the parent having withdrawn from the citizenship of Ukraine.

A child who is considered permanently residing abroad according to the current legislation of Ukraine may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine upon application by either of parents. (Article 18 is supplemented by the part in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

A child who has acquired the citizenship of Ukraine at birth may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine upon application by either of parents regardless of a place of residence if the parents or at least one of them were foreigners or stateless persons at the moment of his/her birth. (Part nine of Article 18 is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

A child adopted by spouses whereof one is the citizen of Ukraine and the other is a foreigner may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine upon application by the adopter being a foreigner.

A child adopted by foreigners or stateless persons may withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine upon application by either of adopters.

Withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine shall be allowed if a person has acquired the citizenship of another state or has obtained a document issued by a competent authority of another state on that the citizen of Ukraine will acquire this state citizenship provided such person withdraw from the citizenship of Ukraine.

Withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine of children aged 14 to 18 could take place with their consent only. (The part of Article 18 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

Withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine shall not be allowed if the person applying for withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine was notified of a suspicion in committing a criminal offence or is convicted in Ukraine by a final court judgement that came into force and should be executed. (Part fourteen of Article 18 is set forth in accordance with the Law N 4652-VI (4652-17) dated 13.04.2012)

In cases specified by this Article the date of termination of Ukrainian citizenship shall be the date of issue of relevant decree by the President of Ukraine.

**Article 19. Grounds for Loss of the Citizenship of Ukraine**

The grounds for loss of the citizenship of Ukraine shall be:

1) voluntary acquisition of the citizenship of another state by a citizen of Ukraine if he/she has reached full age at the moment of such acquisition.

Voluntary acquisition of the citizenship of another state shall be all cases where a citizen of Ukraine had to make an application or petition for acquisition of the citizenship of another state in
accord with the procedure established by the national legislation of the state, the citizenship of which has been acquired.

The following cases shall be not considered as voluntary acquisition of another citizenship:

a) child’s simultaneous acquisition at birth of the citizenship of Ukraine and the citizenship of another state or states;

b) acquisition of the citizenship of his/her adopters by a child being a citizen of Ukraine due to adoption of such child by foreigners;

c) automatic acquisition of another citizenship by a citizen of Ukraine due to marriage with foreigner;

d) automatic acquisition of another citizenship by a citizen of Ukraine who has reached of full age due to application of another state legislation on citizenship if such citizen of Ukraine has not obtain a document proving his/her citizenship of another state;

2) acquisition by person of the citizenship of Ukraine on the ground of Article 9 of this Law via fraud, deliberate submission of false information or false documents.

3) voluntary joining to the military service of another state which is not military duty or alternative (non-military) duty according to the legislation of this state. (Clause 3 of the part one of Article 19 as amended in accordance with the Law N 1014-V (1014-16) dated 11.05.2007)
(Part one of Article 19 is set forth in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

Provisions of the clauses 1, 3 in the part one of this Article shall not be applicable if resulting in citizen of Ukraine becomes a stateless person. (Part two of Article 19 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

In cases specified by this Article the date of termination of the citizenship of Ukraine shall be the date of issue of the relevant decree of the President of Ukraine. (Article 19 is supplemented by part three in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)
(Article 19 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

**Article 20.** Legal Identity of a Citizen of Ukraine who has Applied for Withdrawal from the Citizenship of Ukraine, or in Respect of Whom the Loss of Citizenship is being formalized

A citizen of Ukraine who has submitted an application for withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine, or in respect of whom the loss of citizenship is being formalized, shall enjoy all the rights and shall bear all the obligations of a citizen of Ukraine until the decree of the President of Ukraine on the termination of the citizenship of Ukraine is issued. (Article 20 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

**Article 21.** Revocation of Decisions to Formalize Acquisition of the Citizenship of Ukraine

A decision to formalize acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship shall be revoked, if the person has acquired the citizenship of Ukraine pursuant to Articles 8 or 10 of this Law by fraud, or deliberate submission of false information or false documents, or by concealing of any material fact which prevents the person from acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship.

Section IV
POWERS OF THE STATE AUTHORITIES
DETERMINING CITIZENSHIP ISSUES

Article 22. Powers of the President of Ukraine

The President of Ukraine shall:

1) adopt decisions and issue decrees on admission to and termination of the citizenship of Ukraine according to the Constitution of Ukraine (254k/96-BP) and this Law;

2) determine procedure for citizenship applications and submissions, as well as for implementation of adopted decisions;


Article 23. Powers of the Presidential Commission on Citizenship

The Presidential Commission on Citizenship shall:

1) consider applications on admission to and withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine and make proposals for the President of Ukraine regarding satisfaction of these applications and submissions;

2) return documents on admission to or withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine to the central executive authority on citizenship or to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine for formalizing according to the requirements of current legislation of Ukraine;

3) supervise the implementation of decisions adopted by the President of Ukraine.

Article 24. Powers Of the Central Executive Authority Implementing State Policy On Citizenship

The central executive authority, which implements state policy on citizenship, shall exercise the powers to:

1) determine citizenship of Ukraine according to Article 3 of this Law;

2) receive applications, along with the necessary documents, in regard to admission to the citizenship of Ukraine, withdrawal of children from the citizenship of Ukraine in cases provided for by parts ten - twelve of Article 18 of this Law; verifying the correctness of documents form, the existence of preconditions for admission to the citizenship of Ukraine and the absence of grounds preventing a person from being admitted to the citizenship of Ukraine, the existence of grounds for withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine and the absence of grounds under which withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine is not permitted; and forwarding applications along with its conclusion for consideration of the Presidential Commission on citizenship;

3) prepare submissions on Ukrainian citizenship loss and forwarding them along with all the necessary documents for consideration of the Presidential Commission on Citizenship;

4) adopt decisions to formalize acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship on the grounds provided for by clauses 1, 2, 4 - 10 of Article 6 of this Law;

5) revoke within its powers the adopted decisions to formalize acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship in cases provided for by Article 21 of this Law;

6) implementing decisions of the President of Ukraine on Citizenship;
7) issuing passports of a citizen of Ukraine, temporary certificates of a citizen of Ukraine and certificates on registration of a person as a citizen of Ukraine to persons acquired the citizenship of Ukraine; (Clause 7 of the part one of Article 24 as amended in accordance with the Law N 5492-VI (5492-17) dated 20.11.2012)

8) withdrawing passports of a citizen of Ukraine, temporary certificates of a citizen of Ukraine, passports of a citizen of Ukraine for travelling abroad from persons whose citizenship was terminated or in relation to whom the decision to formalize the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship was revoked, and issuing of certificates on termination of the citizenship of Ukraine; (Clause 8 of the part one of Article 24 as amended in accordance with the Law N 5492-VI (5492-17) dated 20.11.2012)

9) keeping records on persons acquired the citizenship of Ukraine and on persons terminated the citizenship of Ukraine.

The central executive authority which implements state policy on citizenship shall inform on a one time in a half-year basis the Presidential Commission on citizenship about implementation of decisions of the President of Ukraine on citizenship issues.

The central executive authority which implements state policy on citizenship shall exercise powers provided for by part one of this Article in relation to persons residing in the territory of Ukraine.

{Article 24 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005; and is set forth in accordance with the Law N 5459-VI (5459-17) dated 16.10.2012}

Article 25. Powers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Diplomatic Missions and Consulates of Ukraine

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, diplomatic missions and consulates of Ukraine shall exercise the following powers:

1) determine citizenship of Ukraine according to Article 3 of this Law;

2) receive applications along with the necessary documents in regard to admission to the citizenship of Ukraine of persons who have rendered exceptional services to Ukraine and persons whose admission to the citizenship of Ukraine is of national interest to Ukraine; verify the correctness of their form, the existence of preconditions for admission to the citizenship of Ukraine and the absence of grounds preventing a person from being admitted to the citizenship of Ukraine; and forward them along with conclusion for consideration of the Presidential Commission on citizenship;

3) receive applications along with the necessary documents in regard to withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine; verify the correctness of their form, the existence of grounds for withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine, the absence of grounds under which withdrawal from the citizenship of Ukraine is not permitted; and forward them along with conclusion for consideration of the Presidential Commission on citizenship;

4) prepare submissions on loss by persons of the citizenship of Ukraine and forward them along with all the necessary documents for consideration of the Presidential Commission on citizenship;

5) adopt decisions to formalize the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship on the grounds provided for by clauses 1, 2, 4 - 10 of Article 6 of this Law;

6) revoke their adopted decisions to formalize the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship in cases provided for by Article 21 of this Law;

7) implement the decisions of the President of Ukraine on citizenship issues;
8) issue passports of a citizen of Ukraine for travelling abroad, temporary certificates of a citizen of Ukraine and certificates on registration of a person as a citizen of Ukraine to persons acquired the citizenship of Ukraine;
   (Clause 8 of the part one of Article 25 as amended in accordance with the Law N 5492-VI (5492-17) dated 20.11.2012)

9) withdraw passports of a citizen of Ukraine for travelling abroad, temporary certificates of a citizen of Ukraine from persons whose citizenship was terminated or in relation of whom the decision to formalize the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship was revoked, and issue certificates on termination of the citizenship of Ukraine;
   (Clause 8 of the part one of Article 25 as amended in accordance with the Law N 5492-VI (5492-17) dated 20.11.2012)

10) keep records on persons acquired the citizenship of Ukraine and on persons terminated the citizenship of Ukraine;

11) verify a citizenship of Ukraine upon application of persons staying abroad.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, diplomatic missions and consulates of Ukraine shall exercise the powers provided for by clauses 1 – 10 of part one of this Article in relation to persons permanently residing abroad in accordance with the current legislation of Ukraine, and also adopt the decisions to formalize the acquisition of Ukrainian citizenship on the ground provided for by clause 1 of Article 6 of this Law in relation to persons born outside Ukraine. (Article 25 as amended in accordance with the Law N 2663-IV (2663-15) dated 16.06.2005)

Section V

APPEALS AGAINST CITIZENSHIP DECISIONS, ACTIONS OR INACTION OF STATE AUTHORITIES, OFFICIALS AND OFFICERS

Article 26. Appeals against Decisions on Citizenship Issues

Decisions on citizenship issues may be appealed against before the court according to procedure established by law. (Article 26 as amended in accordance with the Law N 5459-VI (5459-17) dated 16.10.2012)

Article 27. Appeals against Acts or Inaction of Officials and Officers Breaching the Procedure for Considering of Citizenship Cases

Acts or inaction of officials and officers breaching the procedure and time limits for considering of citizenship cases and implementing of decisions on citizenship issues may be appealed against both administratively and judicially.

Article 28. Procedure for Appeal against Decisions on Citizenship Issues, Acts or Inaction of Officials and Officers by Persons Permanently Residing Abroad

Persons permanently residing abroad shall appeal against unlawful acts or inaction of officials of diplomatic missions or consulates of Ukraine before the court according to procedure established by law.

Article 29. Responsibility of Officials and Officers for Violation of Legislation on Citizenship

Officials and officers having violate this Law shall be responsible according to procedure provided by laws of Ukraine.

Section VI
FINAL PROVISIONS

1. This Law shall enter into force from the date of its publication.

2. After the entry into force of this Law the following shall become invalid:


   The Decree of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine On Procedure of Validation of the Law of Ukraine On Citizenship of Ukraine (1637-12) (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady Ukrainy, 1991, N 50, p. 702);


3. Within 3 months following the date of publication of this Law the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall:

   prepare and submit for consideration of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine its proposals on harmonization of legislative acts of Ukraine with this Law;

   ensure central executive authorities of Ukraine will harmonize their regulatory acts with this Law.

4. The President of Ukraine shall be recommended to harmonize his acts with this Law.

President of Ukraine

L. KUCHMA

City of Kyiv, January 18, 2001

N 2235-III