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REGISTRATION AS A CITIZEN OF GUYANA OF A CHILD BORN TO GUYANESE PARENT

Children born to Guyanese parents overseas can now have their Birth registered and be issued with a Guyana Registration Certificate which is used to apply for and obtain a Guyana Passport.

Section 4 (2) sub paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Citizenship Act Chapter 14:01 provides for a person to be registered as a citizen of Guyana if he satisfies the Minister that: -

a. He was born before 25 May 1966 and that his mother was a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies at the time of his birth.

The registration of these categories of persons is done at the Department of Citizenship, Ministry of the Presidency, 164 Waterloo Street, Georgetown.

Sub paragraph –

b. Provides for persons born after May 25th 1966 (after independence) that his mother was a citizen of Guyana at the time of his birth.

Registration of this category of persons is done at the General Registrar Office, GPO Building, Robb Street, Georgetown or at the nearest Guyana Mission Overseas.

It is important to recognize that the Constitution is the superior law and it speak of a citizen of Guyana at the date of his birth, if at that date his father or mother is a citizen of Guyana. The Citizenship Act however, speaks only to the fact that the mother was a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies at the time of his birth. The Constitution is the supreme law and the issue of mother

and father has to be given more weight than that in the ordinary legislation and there is no restriction to a child born illegitimate.

If you were born Overseas to Guyanese Parent (s) you are encouraged to register your birth at the Guyana High Commission, London if you intend to apply for a Guyana Passport.

REQUIREMENTS FOR OVERSEAS REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

- The person to be registered must be born on or after May 26, 1966. Persons born prior to May 26, 1966 will need to make contact with the Ministry of Citizenship, Department of Citizenship and Immigration to enquire how they can obtain citizenship.
- At least one (1) parent whose name is recorded on the Foreign Birth Certificate **MUST be a Guyanese by birth.**
- Person to be registered must appear in person along with the documents outlined below.
 - An original birth certificate together with an official translation, if it is not in the English language, of the person to be registered must be submitted. The birth certificate is to be certified in the country where it is issued.
 - Payment of £10. which can be made by cash, Postal Order or International Bank Draft made payable to the "**Guyana High Commission**". *Personal cheques and Euros are not acceptable.*

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

1. Original Birth Certificate of the person being registered.
2. Proof of Birth of the Guyanese parent, whose name must be recorded on the foreign Birth Certificate. The parent's name on the Overseas birth certificate must correspond with the one stated on their child's foreign birth certificate. In the event that it does not, documents such as deed

poll (change of name document); affidavit of identity or marriage certificate in the case of married women should be submitted with the application. Additional documents may be required and will be requested if necessary.

3. Valid photo identification of person effecting the registration. If residing overseas or submitting the application by post, the bio data page of the passport should be ***photocopied and certified*** (by a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths and Affidavits) before forwarding with application. If the person effecting the registration is not the parent then a duly notarised authorisation of the parent's birth certificate is required.
4. If that person is not the parent, a duly notarized authorization should also be produced.
5. Births not registered in English must be accompanied by an official translation.

PROCESS

- Complete processing of the registration can take up to one (1) month.
- On completion of the registration, contact will be made with the applicant.
- On receipt of the Registration Certificate, a check should be made to ensure that all of information recorded is correct. If any errors are detected, return the Certificate to the High Commission for rectification.
- A copy of the Registration will be forwarded to the General Registrar Office in Guyana for its records.

PERSONS BORN BEFORE MAY 25, 1966

The application forms must be completed/filled out in duplicate, signed and sworn to before a Magistrate, Justice of the Peace or other Official and must be returned with the following documents:

REQUIREMENTS

- Copy of applicant's passport (all stamped pages inclusive of the date of first entry)
- Copy of spouse's passport
- Copy of children's birth certificate
- Copy of applicant's birth certificate
- Copy of marriage certificate
- Two (2) recommendations from Guyanese Nationals of good standing attesting to the applicant's character
- An Income Tax Liability statement
- An N.I.S Compliance statement
- Particulars to be filled out with accurate information
- Four (4) passport size photographs
- Police Clearance from country last resided and Guyana

All documents not in English MUST be translated and certified.

In the case of persons residing overseas, they are required to conduct two (2) interviews as follows:

1. At the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, Ministry of the Presidency, 164 Waterloo Street, Georgetown
2. At the Central Immigration and Passport Office, Camp Road, Eve Leary, Georgetown.

Applicants can either send the forms or submit in person when visiting Guyana. The applicant will however need to be in Guyana to conduct the interviews.

Persons who may have previously been issued with a Guyana Passport on the submission of their parent (s) birth certificate, with the introduction of the Machine Readable Passport, an applicant will be required to produce base documents (birth certificate and or certificate of Registration) before a new passport can be issued.

NOTE

The child's foreign birth certificate will not be returned but will be held at the High Commission for its records.

The application should have a covering letter requesting that the child be registered as a citizen of Guyana and that the appropriate birth certificate be mailed to the address of the parent. It is imperative to write the address clearly.

Persons residing in the UK can collect the Registration certificate when it is completed or forward a registered self-addressed envelope, while those overseas are required to pay £10.00 for return postage.

Applicants in the UK should note that if a registered self-addressed envelope is not forwarded then he or she is required to include an additional £8.00 for postage.

On receipt of the Certificate of Registration of Birth, the registrant becomes eligible to apply for a Guyana passport.

Persons who were previously issued with a Guyana passport but did not complete the Registration process will first need to register before a new passport can be issued.

Unfortunately the Guyana High Commission will not be able to accept applications which do not fulfil the above requirements.

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