



ARSINOI D. LAINIOTI

Insights and Information from the Law Offices of Arsinoi D. Lainioti

January 2014



Kalimera!

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new year. [ADL Law Offices](#) is pleased to offer this information for all Greeks that live outside of Greece and are looking for up-to-date accurate information. Please share to friends, family and associates who may be in need of this valuable information. If you do not wish to receive this information, please click Unsubscribe at the bottom of the newsletter for immediate removal.

Best wishes and have a wonderful week,

Arsinoi D. Lainioti

GREEK CITIZENSHIP INFORMATION FOR PERSONS OF GREEK DESCENT

Benefits of Greek Citizenship

Greek citizens are entitled to reside, work and study in Greece as well as in any other member state of the European Union (EU), indefinitely. For the duration of their residence in any member state of the EU, Greek citizens benefit from the privileges and legal status enjoyed by locals in that Member State. As a result, increasing numbers of people of Greek ancestry are acquiring Greek citizenship and procuring Greek passports.

Citizenship Pursuant to Recognition

The Greek Nationality Code provides ethnic Greeks (i.e. persons with a Greek ancestor) with two means of acquiring Greek citizenship. Persons whose ancestor were born in Greece and/or registered on either a Municipal Register or Male Register of Greece are entitled to have their birth right to Greek citizenship recognized. In order to do so, these persons must obtain the relevant certificates from the Municipal or Male Registers of Greece and must thereafter proceed with registering all subsequent ancestors by submitting certificates of birth, marriage and death, which took place abroad, with the Special Register of Greece. Foreign certificates must either be certified by Apostille in accordance with the Hague Convention or authenticated by the authorized Greek Consular office, if the country issuing the certificate is not a party to the Hague Convention.

Once the necessary certificates are issued by the Special Registry, they must be submitted to the Municipality with which the applicant wishes to register. The decision recognizing the Greek nationality of an applicant is issued by the Prefecture (Perifereia). Once the applicant is included on the relevant Municipal Register and Male Register, if applicable, he/she is a Greek citizen and can apply for the issuance of a Greek Identification Card and Greek Passport.

Citizenship Pursuant to Naturalization

A foreign born ethnic Greek who fails to qualify for recognition of their right to Greek citizenship pursuant to the above, may acquire Greek citizenship pursuant to naturalization. This procedure requires the applicant to submit a related declaration to the Greek Consular Authority of their domicile or the Mayor of the area in which they live (for residents of Greece) together with the Greek ancestors' baptismal certificates, Greek Orthodox marriage certificates and the applicants' own baptismal certificate. The Minister of the Interior issues the decision regarding whether or not Greek citizenship is granted, based on a review of the file. Children of a naturalized Greek citizen obtain Greek citizenship, if they are under 18 years of age when the parent obtains Greek citizenship.

Part II (January 28, 2014) Information for children born out of wedlock, ad hoc considerations, military service and consequences of Greek citizenship.

Our firm handles Greek citizenship procedures, including name changes, pursuant to specifically drafted limited Powers of Attorney. It is therefore not necessary for our clients to travel to Greece in order to accomplish the above indicated.

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