



ARSINOI D. LAINIOTI

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

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Good Morning and Kalimera!

Welcome to Part II of our Greek Citizenship Newsletter. [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 II

Citizenship for Children Born Out of Wedlock

A child born out of wedlock automatically receives Greek citizenship if the mother is a Greek citizen. If the father is a Greek citizen, paternity must be established (through court decision or notarial document evidencing paternity), in order for the child to acquire Greek citizenship. Paternity must be established before the child reaches the age of 18.

Ad Hoc Considerations

In the event that there has been a divorce in the direct line of ancestors, any resulting foreign divorce decree must be formally recognized by the Greek Courts. All foreign language documents must be translated by authorized translators, Greek Consular Offices abroad, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens or Greek attorneys.

In the event that an ancestor of the applicant underwent a name change, an administrative or court decision substantiating the name change may be required in order for the applicant to obtain Greek citizenship pursuant to the above.

Military Service

Males of Greek origin who were born abroad and who permanently reside outside of Greece are not required to serve in the Greek Military, provided that they do not stay in Greece for more than six months within the same calendar year. It should be noted that residing in any other EU country for more than six months within the same calendar year does not subject the same person to required Greek military service. It is advisable for a male of Greek ancestry who intends to spend more than six months a year in Greece to declare that he wants to serve in the Greek Military while he is still a permanent resident abroad, since this will significantly reduce the number of months of his military service.

Consequences of Greek Citizenship

According to Greek law, it is possible for Greek citizens to be dual citizens. It is not therefore necessary for someone who obtains Greek citizenship to relinquish his/her other citizenship.

At present, marriage does not entail the acquisition or loss of Greek citizenship. Prior to 1984, a woman with Greek citizenship who married a non-Greek citizen could lose her Greek citizenship, under certain circumstances. It is now possible for those women who did lose their Greek citizenship to regain that citizenship.

Part I of this newsletter was published in January 2014. [Click here to our online link!](#)

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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