

Confirmation of Polish citizenship

Were you born abroad and have ancestors who were Polish citizens? It is possible that you are a citizen of the Republic of Poland yourself.

The main way to acquire Polish citizenship is to be born to parents of whom at least one has Polish citizenship, regardless of the fact if the child was born in Poland or abroad – the law of the blood (*ius sanguinis*) applies.

Since 2009, it has been possible to apply to the competent Voivode for confirmation of Polish citizenship. In order to obtain such confirmation, you have to submit an application on the appropriate official form, and present some documents of your own and of your ancestors, such as birth, marriage and death certificates, CVs etc. The procedure does not require your presence in Poland, and you can apply to the competent Voivode through an attorney.

You can derive Polish citizenship from your ancestors – you have to prove by means of relevant documents that Polish citizenship was uninterrupted among your direct ancestors, for example, there is a continuous sequence thereof, beginning with your grandfather, who you know had Polish citizenship, and including yourself.

Determining whether one has acquired Polish citizenship from one's ancestors requires, in each case, a detailed reconstruction of one's family history and its analysis in terms of the legal regulations previously in force in the Republic of Poland (the Polish Citizenship Acts of 1920, 1951 or 1962, depending on your and your ancestors' dates of birth).

After obtaining a decision confirming your Polish citizenship, you can apply for a Polish passport at the nearest Polish consular office.