

Saudi Arabian Nationality Regulations

1374 H

Saudi Arabian Nationality Regulations

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
The Premiership

Resolution No (4) dated 25/1/1374

The Council of Ministers upon reviewing the draft Regulations of the Saudi Arabian Nationality originally drafted by Al Shoura Council, and revised by a committee composed of the legal consultant Ahmed Ibrahim Musa and Hussein Azab, the representative of the Ministry of Interior, and the resolution of the Regulations Committee of the Council of Ministers concerning the said draft, decides by absolute majority the approval of the abovementioned draft following in the form :

The Saudi Arabian Nationality Regulations

1. These Regulations the Saudi Arabian Nationality Regulations.
2. These Regulations shall have no retroactive force shall be all resolutions and procedures issued in accordance with the former Regulations valid and in full force and all nationalities, granted under said regulations valid if based on correct procedures and true information.
3. The following terms shall in these regulations have the following meanings:
 - A. A Saudi national is a subject of the Government of His Majesty the King in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.
 - B. A Saudi by naturalization is the person who has acquired the Saudi nationality in accordance with its special provisions.
 - C. An alien is the person who is non – Saudi.
 - D. An Underage is the child, the insane and the imbecile.
 - E. Age of maturity is that age prescribed by the provisions of Sharia.
 - F. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia includes the territories, territorial waters and the air space under the Saudi Arabian sovereignty, as well as vessels and airplanes, carrying the Saudi Arabian flag.
4. The Saudi nationals are:
 - A. Any person who was an Othoman national on 1332 H. corresponding to 1914 G. and number of the indigenous people of the land.
 - B. The Othoman subjects, who were born on the territories of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and who were residing therein on 1332 H, corresponding to 1914 G. and who continued to reside in these territories till 22/3/1345 H without acquiring, any other nationality before this date.
 - C. Any person who was not an Othman subject and was residing in the territories of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 1332 H,

corresponding to 1914 G. and whose residence in these territories extended up to 22/3/1345 H without acquiring any foreign nationality before this date.

5. Provisions of sub section (A) of article 4 shall apply to women, who are indigenous nationals of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and who apply for the restoration of Saudi Arabian nationality following their divorce or death of their husbands.
6. Applications for Saudi Arabian nationality shall not be accepted from those who are subject to the provisions of subsections "B" and "C" of article 4 after one year of the date on which come into force; and for these regulations persons, under aged after one year of the date on which they reach legal age.
7. A Saudi is a person who is born in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, or abroad whose father and mother are both Saudi nationals, or whose mother is a Saudi national and the nationality of his father is unknown or without nationality.¹
8. Any person born in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia whose parents are foreigners, or any person whose father is a foreigner and his mother is a Saudi national shall be regarded a foreigner. Also shall be regarded a foreigner any person, who is born outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to a father who is a foreigner with a known nationality and to a mother is a Saudi national; nevertheless, this child when becomes of legal age shall have the right to become a Saudi Arabian national if the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - A. He shall have made Saudi Arabia his permanent residence when he becomes of legal age.
 - B. He is of good conduct and sound character and has not been convicted of a crime or with imprisonment for. a period exceeding six months for an indecent act.
 - C. He shall be Arabic language.
 - D. He shall submit an application for Saudi Arabian nationality within one year after he reaches age of maturity. An insane or imbecile person will follow the nationality of his father, if his father is still alive, However if his father was dead, his legal guardian has to choose the Saudi Arabian nationality for him if the above conditions are met.²
9. An alien may be granted the Saudi Arabian nationality if he fulfilled the following conditions:
 - (1) He has reached the age of maturity at the time of submission of application.
 - (2) He shall not be insane or imbecile.
 - (3) At the time of submitting application:
 - A. He shall have been granted permanent residence status in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by virtue of the special provisions of residence regulations.
 - B. He shall be of good conduct.

¹ This article has been amended by Royal Decree No (20) dated 12/11/1379 H, See amendments relating to the Regulations issued later on.

² This article has been amended by Royal Decree No (14) dated 24/5/1405 H, See the amendments relative to the Regulations issued later on.

C. He punished with imprisonment for a crime that impugns integrity for more than six months.

D. He has legal source of living.

A person who applies for naturalization shall attach with his application the permanent residence license, his legal passport and any other document, which the authorities considered acting as a legal passport, and any other documents connected with the nationality, which he is going to renounce, and any paper required by the provisions of this act.

10. Saudi Arabian nationality is granted by the Prime Minister based on the recommendation of the Minister of Interior. The Minister of Interior, in all cases, may refuse granting Saudi Arabian nationality to aliens, who have fulfilled all the conditions, which are prescribed in article nine.

11. A Saudi national is not permitted to acquire foreign nationality without prior permission from the Prime Minister; and any Saudi national who acquires a foreign nationality without having this permission in advance, is still considered a Saudi national, unless the government of his Majesty the King decides to withdraw the nationality of that person in implementation of the provision of article (13).

12. When a Saudi national acquires a foreign nationality, this will entitle his wife to lose the Saudi nationality, if she acquires the nationality of her husband in accordance with the law of that new nationality, unless she decides within one year of the date on which her husband has acquired the foreign nationality, that she intends to keep her Saudi Arabian nationality.

Underage children, shall lose the Saudi Arabian nationality, if they enter into the new nationality, which their father has acquired by virtue of its law, and they shall have the right to restore the Saudi Arabian nationality within one year after reaching the age of maturity.

13. Any Saudi national may be denaturalized with causative decree in any of the following cases:

A. If he acquires another nationality, violating the provisions of article (11) of this law.

B. If he works in the armed forces of a foreign country without prior permission from the government of his Majesty the King.

C. If he works for the interest of another country, which is in war state with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

D. If he accepts a job in a foreign country or in an international institution and remains in that job despite receiving an order from the government of his Majesty the King to leave that job.

In all cases, which are prescribed in sub – sections (B), (C) and (D) of this article, the Saudi national shall be warned about the consequences of his deed in a proper manner three months at least before issuance of the decree of withdrawal of the Saudi Arabian nationality. In all cases of denaturalization,

in accordance with the provisions of this article, properties of the person who has been denaturalized shall be confiscated in accordance to Real Estate Ownership Law and he may be prevented from residence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or returning.

14. If an alien has acquired Saudi Arabian nationality, his wife shall be a Saudi Arabian national, if she does not decide after one year of the date on which her husband becomes Saudi, that she intends to keep her original nationality. Underage children, who have not reached the age of maturity, if they are residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are considered Saudi nationals, and they have the right to select the original nationality of their father within one year after reaching the age of maturity. If their residence is outside Saudi Arabia, they are considered aliens, and they have the right to select the nationality of their father, the Saudi Arabian nationality, within one year after reaching age the of maturity.
15. The naturalized person may submit a separate application for acquiring Saudi Arabian nationality for any of the women who are under his legal guardianship, by virtue of a legal document.
16. An alien woman who marries a Saudi national shall acquire his Saudi nationality.³
17. Pursuant to what has been prescribed in the two articles (132) and (133) of the Law of Procedure Before Shari'ah Courts, a Saudi Arabian woman shall not loose her nationality, if she marries an alien, unless she has received a permission to leave the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with her husband (in accordance with his special law), and she decides and announces that she will join the nationality of her husband and has actually entered that nationality by virtue of the law of that nationality.
18. A Saudi Arabian woman, who has married an alien, may restore her Saudi Arabian nationality after the end of marriage and her return to reside in the Kingdom.
19. The following provisions shall be applicable on the wives and children of those who have lost Saudi Arabian nationality:
 - A. A wife of a Saudi whose nationality has been withdrawn in accordance with article (13), shall have the right to select the new nationality of her husband or to remain in her Saudi nationality. If she selects her husband's nationality she may restore her Saudi nationality if the marriage bond ceases to subsist. Underage children, have the right, if they are not residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to select the Saudi Arabian nationality, without any restrictions, when they reach the maturity age and they are entitled to all rights of Saudi citizens without exception.
 - B. Withdrawal of Saudi Arabian nationality in accordance of article (11) from a person, does not entitle the withdrawal of

³ This article has been amended by the Royal Decree No (32) dated 25/6/1380 H, See what has been issued about the law

that nationality from his wife or children or from any of his family who have such nationality.

20. Any person who leaves the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the passport of his original country, after residing for the required period for obtaining Saudi nationality and has submitted his application for naturalization, will lose this period if he stays abroad for more than one year; and any person who leaves Saudi Arabia after completing the required period and has not applied for naturalization, will lose his right to apply for naturalization, if he stays outside Saudi Arabia for more than the period of his return visa, which is considered six months maximum.
21. Saudi Arabian nationality may be withdrawn, by a causative decree based on the request of the Minister of Interior, from any person who has acquired that nationality by naturalization under the provisions of articles (8), (9), and (10) of this law, within the first five years of his acquisition in the two following cases:
 - A. If he has been punished for a criminal offence or for a crime, which impugns integrity with imprisonment for a period exceeding one year.
 - B. If it is proved that he has committed or participated in any action, which disturbs public security, or if it is proved that he has committed what makes his stay undesirable in the country.
22. Saudi Arabian nationality may be withdrawn, by a decree based on the recommendation of the Minister of Interior and the approval of the Council of Ministers, from any person who has acquired that nationality by naturalization, at any time, if it is proved that he has obtained that nationality based on false statements or by way of deception or by fault or by forgery or by counterfeiting witnesses or documents or data, which he has submitted for obtaining nationality.⁴
23. Withdrawal of Saudi Arabian nationality from a person who has acquired by naturalization, entitles the withdrawal of that nationality from the person and from those who have acquired nationality through him. If the person who has acquired nationality by belonging is proved to be of good conduct and there are no reasons preventing granting him nationality, he shall be granted nationality and the previous period is calculated.
24. The Ministry of Interior is the entity, which has true jurisdiction of implementing this law. All declarations, announcements, papers and applications, referred to in this law, shall be addressed to the Minister of Interior through official notice or by receipt to the concerned officer in the department in the residential location of the applicant or abroad to the legations of the government of his Majesty the King, or to the counselors or to any other officer authorized by a resolution from the Minister of Interior to receive these declarations, announcements, applications and papers.

⁴ This article has been amended by the Royal Decree No (M/4) dated 4/6/1389 H, See what has been issued about the law

25. All decrees and resolutions connected with acquirement, withdrawal, denaturalization and restoration of Saudi Arabian nationality are deemed valid and enter into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.
26. Notwithstanding any other more severe punishment, any person who presents false statements or untrue documents to the concerned authorities in order to acquire or refute for himself or for others, Saudi Arabian nationality, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand SAR. Approval of withdrawal decisions shall be issued by the Minister of Interior.
27. The Minister of Interior shall pass the necessary decisions to implement this law.
28. This law supersedes the Law of Saudi Arabian nationality issued with the Royal Decree No 7/10/47 dated 13 Shawal 1357, and all prior laws concerned with Higazi nationality or Higazi Negdi nationality, and it also supersedes other provisions of laws, which are contradicting to its provisions.
29. No one, except his Majesty the King, has the right to grant nationality to a person who does not fulfill the conditions prescribed in article No (9) or to withdraw nationality from any Saudi national except in accordance with the provisions of article (13) herein.

The Prime Minister

Raised to the Chamber of his Highness with No 566 dated 25/1/1374.

Amendments concerning the Law

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

No: 20

Date: 12 Thu Al Gaedah 1379 H

With the Help of Allah,
We, Saud Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,
The King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Upon reviewing the resolution of the Council of Ministers No 210 dated 7/11/1379 H, and based on the representation of the Prime Minister,

Declare the following:

Firstly: Article (7) of the Saudi Arabian Nationality Law, issued on 1374 H shall be amended with the following text:

"A Saudi is the person who is born inside or outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and whose father is a Saudi national; or whose mother is a Saudi national and his father of unknown nationality, or without nationality; or who is born inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his parents are unknown - A foundling is considered born in Saudi Arabia unless otherwise proved."

Secondly: The Prime Minister shall implement this law.

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

No:
Date:
Attachments:

Resolution No 210 dated 7/11/1379 H

The Council of Ministers, upon reviewing the attached transaction, received from the Presidency Chamber with No 11343 dated 29/5/79 H, consisting of an application from Tahseen Baashen requesting an official certificate to be given to the foundling whom he named "Waleed" for the purpose of providing him with Saudi ID; and which has been dealt with in Asshurah Council with its resolution No 49 dated 16/5/79,

Declare the following:

Firstly: Approval of the amendment of article (7) of the Saudi Arabian Nationality Law issued on 1374 H with the following text:

"A Saudi is the person who is born inside or outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia whose father is a Saudi national; or whose mother is a Saudi national and father of unknown nationality or without nationality; or who is born inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his parents are unknown - A foundling is considered born in Saudi Arabia unless otherwise proved."

Secondly: A daft of a Royal Decree has been prepared for this purpose – A copy is attached.

Prime Minister

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

No: 32

Date: 25 Jumadah Al Thanyah 1380 H.

With the Help of Allah,

We, Saud Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,

The King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Upon reviewing the two articles (19 and (20) of Council of Ministers Law, and based on the resolution of the Council of Ministers No 227 dated 2/6/1380 H,

And based on the representation of the Prime Minister,

Declare the following:

Firstly: Article No (16) of the Saudi Arabian Nationality Law, issued on 22/2/1374 H shall be amended as follows:

An alien woman who marries a Saudi national shall acquire his Saudi nationality if she renounces her previous nationality and has announced her intention to acquire a Saudi Arabian nationality.

Secondly: The Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior shall implement this decree on the date of its publication.

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

No:
Date:
Attachments:

Resolution No 227 dated 2/6/1380 H

The Council of Ministers,

Upon reviewing the attached transaction, received from the Presidency Chamber with No 7044 dated 29/3/1980 H, and No 10032 dated 4/5/1380 H. consisting of nationality of foreign woman after her marriage to a Saudi national – and the procedures which shall be followed to add her name in the ID and passport of her husband.

And upon reviewing the resolution of the resolution of Asshurah Council No 27 dated 16/3/1480 H;

And upon reviewing the resolution of Laws Commission No 72 dated 27/5/1380 H

Declare the following:

Firstly: Amendment of article (16) of the Saudi Arabian Nationality Law issued on 22/2/1374 H which reads: "with the following text: An alien woman who marries a Saudi national shall acquire his Saudi nationality"

Shall be replaced with the following text:

"An alien woman who marries a Saudi national shall acquire his Saudi nationality if she renounces her previous nationality and has announced her intention to acquire a Saudi Arabian nationality."

Secondly: A daft of Royal Decree has been prepared for this purpose – A copy is attached.

Prime Minister

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

No: M / 14

Date: 24/5/1405

With the help of Allah the Almighty,
We, Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
Deputy King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
Upon reviewing article 20 of the Council of Ministers Law issued by
the Royal Decree No (38) dated 22/10/1377 H,
And upon reviewing the Saudi Arabian Nationality Law issued by the
Royal Edict No 8/20/5604 dated 22/2/1377 H;
And upon reviewing the resolution of the Council of Ministers No (86)
dated 7/5/1405 H;

Declare the following:

Firstly: Amendment of article (8) of the Saudi Arabian Nationality
Law, issued by the Royal Edict No 8/22/5604 dated 22/2/1377 H, to be
read as following:

(Saudi Arabian Nationality may be granted to any person who is born
inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of an alien father and a Saudi
mother if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- A. He makes Saudi Arabia his permanent residence when he
reaches the age of maturity.
- B. He is of good conduct and has not been punished on a penal
crime or with imprisonment for a period exceeding six months for a
crime impugns integrity.
- C. He knows Arabic language well.
- D. He shall submit an application for Saudi Arabian nationality
within one year after he reaches the age of maturity.)

Article (8) with its text before amendment continues to be applicable
for beneficiaries of that article, who have applied under that article for
selecting Saudi Arabian Nationality before issuance of this decree.

His Royal Highness the deputy Prime Minister and the Ministers, each
in his capacity, shall implement this decree.

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

No:
Date:
Attachments:

Resolution No 86 dated 7/5/1405 H

The Council of Ministers,

Upon reviewing the attached transaction, received from the Presidency Chamber with No 6/15171/D, dated 13/8/1404 H consisting of the letter of His Royal Highness the Minister of Interior No 3/26514, dated 17/5/1404 H, concerning his request for amendment of article (8) of the nationality law, issued on 1374 H, which gives those who are born in the Kingdom of foreign fathers, the right to apply for the Saudi nationality with very simple conditions, and considering the change of circumstances on which that article has been formulated, when the number of foreigners who were residing in Saudi Arabia and benefiting of the article was limited, and they had links with Saudi Arabia more than the material links,

And upon reviewing the report prepared by the Department of Experts with collaboration with the Ministry of Interior,

And upon reviewing the recommendation of the General Commission of the Council of Ministers No (11) dated 14/1/1405 H, and its memorandum No (56) dated 28/2/1405 H.

Declare the following:

1. Amendment of article (8) of the Saudi Arabian Nationality Law issued by the Royal Decree No 8/20/5604 dated 22/2/1374 to be read as following:

(Saudi Arabian Nationality may be granted by a decision of the Minister of Interior for any person born inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of foreign father and Saudi mother if the following conditions are fulfilled:

A. He makes Saudi Arabia his permanent residence when he reaches the age of maturity.

B. He is of good conduct and has not been punished for criminal offense or with imprisonment for a period exceeding six months for a crime impugns integrity.

C. He knows Arabic language well.

D. He shall submit an application to be granted the Saudi Arabian Nationality on the second year after reaching the age of maturity.

2. Article (8) with its text before amendment continues to be applicable for beneficiaries of that article, who have applied under that article for selecting Saudi Arabian Nationality before issuance of this decree.

3. A draft of Royal Decree has been prepared for that purpose, which text is attached herewith.

Prime Minister