

**BILL ON
THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

I. BASIC PROVISIONS

Article 1

Citizens of the Republic of Serbia shall have the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 2

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be acquired and shall cease in the manner laid down by this Law.

Article 3

A citizen of the Republic of Serbia shall concurrently be a citizen of Serbia and Montenegro.

Article 4

A citizen of the other Member State of Serbia and Montenegro shall have same rights and duties on the territory of the Republic of Serbia as citizens of the Republic of Serbia, with the exception of the right to vote.

Article 5

A citizen of the Republic of Serbia who has the citizenship of a foreign state as well shall be considered a citizen of the Republic of Serbia when he or she is on the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

II. ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Article 6

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be acquired:

- 1) by origin;
- 2) by birth on the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
- 3) by acceptance;
- 4) under international treaties.

By origin and by birth on the territory of the Republic of Serbia the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be acquired on the basis of the registration of the fact of citizenship in a registry of births.

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be acquired by acceptance on the basis of a final decision which the Ministry in charge of internal affairs has passed after conducting a procedure provided for by this Law.

1. Acquisition of Citizenship by Origin

Article 7

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be acquired by origin by a child:

1) whose both parents were citizens of the Republic of Serbia at the time of his or her birth;

2) whose one parent was a citizen of the Republic of Serbia at the time of the child's birth and the child was born on the territory of the Republic of Serbia;

3) who was born on the territory of the Republic of Serbia and whose one parent was a citizen of the Republic of Serbia at the time of his or her birth and the other one was a citizen of the other Member State, if the parents so agree;

4) who was born on the territory of the other Member State and whose one parent was a citizen of the Republic of Serbia at the time of his or her birth and the other one was a citizen of the other Member State, if the parents so agree;

5) who was born on the territory of the other Member State and whose one parent was a citizen of the Republic of Serbia at the time of his or her birth and the other one was of foreign citizenship, or unknown, or of unknown citizenship, or stateless, if the child in question does not acquire the citizenship of the other Member State;

6) who was born abroad, and whose one parent was a citizen of the Republic of Serbia at the time of his or her birth and the other one was unknown, or of unknown citizenship, or stateless.

Article 8

A child born abroad, whose one parent was a citizen of the Republic of Serbia at the time of his or her birth and the other one was a citizen of the other Member State, shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia by origin, if the parents so agree.

If the agreement referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article has not been reached, a child shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia if the parent who registered the child as a citizen of the Republic of Serbia with the competent diplomatic or consular representative office of Serbia and Montenegro, and applied for the entering of the child into the records of citizens kept in the Republic of Serbia, has the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

If one of the parents is not alive, if he or she has been deprived of legal capacity or the parental right, or is unknown, the registration and application referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be made by the other parent.

Article 9

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia by origin shall be acquired by a child born abroad whose one parent was a citizen of the Republic of Serbia at the time of his or her birth and the other one was a foreign citizen, if the parent who is a citizen of the Republic of Serbia registers the child before he or she attains 18 years of age with the competent diplomatic or consular representative office of Serbia and Montenegro as a citizen of the Republic of Serbia and if he or she lodges an application for entering the child in the records of citizens with the competent authority in the Republic of Serbia. If a child is under guardianship the registration and application may be lodged by the guardian.

A child born abroad whose one of the parents was a citizen of the Republic of Serbia at the time of his or her birth shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia by origin if he or she would otherwise remain stateless even if the conditions set out in paragraph 1 of this Article have not been met.

If the child is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall also be necessary for acquiring citizenship in terms of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article

Article 10

A person over 18 years of age born abroad, whose one parent was a citizen of the Republic of Serbia at the time of his or her birth and the other one was a foreign citizen, shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia by origin if he or she lodges an application for the entering into the records of citizens before he or she attains 23 years of age with the competent authority in the Republic of Serbia, provided that he or she has not acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia in the manner laid down by Article 9, paragraph 1, of this Law.

Article 11

Subject to the conditions set forth in Articles 7 through 10 of this Law, the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be acquired by origin also by an adopted alien child, i.e. an adopted stateless child, in the case of full adoption.

An application for the entering of the adopted child referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article in the records of citizens shall be submitted by the adoptive parent – citizen of the Republic of Serbia.

The application referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article may also be submitted by an adopted child over 18 years of age before he or she attains 23 years of age.

Article 12

A child, i.e. a person referred to in Articles 7 through 11 of this Law, who has acquired citizenship by origin, shall be considered a citizen of the Republic of Serbia from the moment of his or her birth.

2. Acquisition of Citizenship by Birth on the Territory of the Republic of Serbia

Article 13

A child born or found on the territory of the Republic of Serbia (a foundling) shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia by birth if both his or her parents are unknown, or of unknown citizenship, or stateless, or if the child is stateless.

A child who has acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article shall be considered a citizen of the Republic of Serbia from the moment of his or her birth.

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia of the child referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may cease if it should be established, before he or she has attained 18 years of age, that his or her both parents are citizens of the other Member State or foreign citizens. The child's citizenship shall cease at the request of the parents on the day of delivery of the relevant decision.

If the child is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall be necessary for the cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

3. Acquisition of Citizenship by Acceptance

Article 14

An alien who has been given a permission to take up permanent residence in the Republic of Serbia pursuant to the regulations on movement and residence of aliens may, at his or her request, be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, provided that:

1) he or she has attained 18 years of age and has not been deprived of his or her legal capacity;

2) he or she has a discharge from foreign citizenship, or that he or she submits proof that he or she will be discharged if granted the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia;

3) prior to submitting the application, he or she was registered as a permanent resident on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, i.e. Serbia and Montenegro for an uninterrupted period of at least 3 years;

4) he or she submits a written statement that he or she considers the Republic of Serbia to be his or her own state.

The condition referred to in paragraph 1, item 2, of this Article shall be fulfilled if the application is submitted by a stateless person or a person who presents proof that, in accordance with the law of the country whose citizenship he or she has, he or she will lose its citizenship by being granted the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

If a foreign state does not allow a discharge from its citizenship or if it imposes conditions for a discharge that an alien cannot fulfill, it shall not be necessary to meet the condition referred to in paragraph 1, item 2, of this Article if the applicant makes a

statement renouncing the citizenship of the foreign state provided that he or she acquires the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

The renunciation or loss of the previous citizenship shall not be required if it is not possible or cannot be reasonably expected.

A form of the written statement referred to in item 4) of paragraph 1 of this Article shall be prescribed by the Minister in charge of internal affairs.

Article 15

An alien who has applied to be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia and has no discharge from foreign citizenship or proof that he or she will be discharged if accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia may, at his or her request, be issued a certificate that he or she shall be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia provided that he or she meets the other conditions set out in Article 14, paragraph 1, of this Law.

The certificate referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be issued with a validity of two years and used for obtaining a discharge from foreign citizenship.

Article 16

A person who was born on the territory of the Republic of Serbia may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia if he or she has resided on the territory of the Republic of Serbia for at least two consecutive years before applying for citizenship and if he or she submits a written statement that he or she considers the Republic of Serbia to be his or her own state.

Article 17

An alien who has been married to a citizen of the Republic of Serbia for at least three years and who has been allowed to take up permanent residence in the Republic of Serbia may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia if he or she submits a written statement that he or she considers the Republic of Serbia to be his or her own state.

Article 18

An emigrant and his or her descendant may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia if they have attained 18 years of age and have not been deprived of their legal capacity and if they submit a written statement that they consider the Republic of Serbia to be their own state.

A spouse of the person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, who has acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia if he or she submits a written statement that he or she considers the Republic of Serbia to be his or her own state.

For the purposes of paragraph 1 of this Article, the term emigrant shall be understood to mean a person who left the Republic of Serbia with the intention to permanently live abroad.

Article 19

Without prejudice to the conditions referred to in items 1 through 4, paragraph 1, Article 14, of this Law, an alien may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia if the grant of citizenship of the Republic of Serbia to that person would constitute the interest of the Republic of Serbia.

A spouse of the person who has acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia under the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia even if he or she does not meet the conditions referred to in Article 14, paragraph 1, items 1 through 4, of this Law.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia shall decide on the grant of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, at the proposal of the competent Ministry.

Article 20

If both parents have been accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, their child under 18 years of age shall also acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

At the request of a parent who was accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, his or her child under 18 years of age shall also be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, provided that the other parent agrees to it and that the child lives in the Republic of Serbia.

At the request of a parent who was accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, his or her child under 18 years of age shall also acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, provided that the other parent agrees to it and that the child lives abroad.

If the child is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall also be necessary for the acceptance into the citizenship in terms of paragraphs 1 through 3 of this Article.

Article 21

In the case of incomplete adoption, an adopted alien child who has not attained 18 years of age, at the request of an adoptive parent who has the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, may acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia if he or she lives with the adoptive parent in the Republic of Serbia.

If the adopted child is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall also be necessary for the acceptance into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 22

At his or her request, a citizen of the other Member State may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, provided that he or she has attained 18 years of age and has permanent residence in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

A citizen of the other Member State who is married to a citizen of the Republic of Serbia may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia even if the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article have not been met.

If the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia was acquired by one of the parents, and the other one is a citizen of the other Member State, the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be acquired also by their child who has not attained 18 years of age, if the parents so agree.

An adopted child – citizen of the other Member State who has not attained 18 years of age shall acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia at the request of an adoptive parent who is a citizen of the Republic of Serbia even if he or she has not met the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

If the child is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall also be necessary for the grant of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 23

A person belonging to the Serbian or some other nation or ethnic community from the territory of the Republic of Serbia, who has no permanent residence in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia if he or she has attained 18 years of age and has not been deprived of his or her legal capacity and if he or she files a written statement that he or she considers the Republic of Serbia to be his own state.

Subject to the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article also a person born in another republic of the former SFRY who had the citizenship of that republic or has the citizenship of another state formed in the territory of the former SFRY and who resides in the territory of the Republic of Serbia as a refugee, expellee or displaced person or has taken refuge abroad may be accepted into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

Article 24

A written statement to the effect that the Republic of Serbia is recognized as one's own state shall be submitted together with the application for the grant of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia to the Ministry in charge of internal affairs or to the competent diplomatic or consular representative office of Serbia and Montenegro, in the manner set out in this Law.

4. Day of Acquisition of Citizenship by Acceptance

Article 25

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be acquired on the day of delivery of the decision on the acceptance into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

Where the condition for the acceptance into the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia is only to submit a statement recognizing the Republic of Serbia as one's own state the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be acquired on the day of the submission of the statement.

4. Acquisition of Citizenship Under International Treaties

Article 26

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia may be acquired on the basis of a ratified international treaty, on condition of reciprocity.

III. CESSATION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Article 27

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall cease:

- 1) through discharge,
- 2) through renunciation,
- 3) by acquiring the citizenship of the other Member State,
- 4) under international treaties.

1. Cessation of Citizenship through Discharge

Article 28

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia of a citizen of the Republic of Serbia shall cease through discharge if he or she applies for a discharge and if he or she meets the following requirements:

- 1) that he or she has attained 18 years of age;
- 2) that there are no impediments related to military service;
- 3) that he or she has paid taxes and met other statutory obligations in Serbia and Montenegro;
- 4) that he or she has settled property-legal obligations arising from marital relations and parent-child relations toward persons who live in Serbia and Montenegro;

5) that no criminal proceedings are conducted against him or her in Serbia and Montenegro for criminal offences prosecuted *ex officio*, and if he or she received a prison sentence in Serbia and Montenegro – that he or she has served the said sentence;

6) that he or she has foreign citizenship or proof that he or she is to be accepted into foreign citizenship.

Article 29

A discharge from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall not be granted if that is required by security reasons or reasons of national defense, for reasons of reciprocity or if it is mandated by economic or other interests of Serbia and Montenegro.

Article 30

A citizen of the Republic of Serbia who has applied for a discharge from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia may apply by the same application for a discharge from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia of his or her children under 18 years of age. The application for a discharge from the child's citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be supported by the consent of the other parent. If the child is over 14 years of age, also his or her consent shall be submitted.

If the parents are divorced, an application for a discharge from a child's citizenship of the Republic of Serbia may be submitted only by the parent in whose custody the child is pursuant to a final court decision.

If the other parent does not give his or her consent for the discharge of the child from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, or if his or her permanent residence is unknown, or if he or she has been deprived of his or her legal capacity or parental right, the application for the discharge of the child from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be accepted if that is in the child's best interest in the opinion of the competent guardianship authority.

Article 31

In the case of full adoption, the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia of an adopted child under 18 years of age shall cease through a discharge if the application for the cessation of the citizenship is submitted by the adoptive parent who is an alien or the adoptive parent who has submitted an application for a discharge from his or her citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, and if the conditions referred to in Article 30 of this Law have been met.

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia of the child referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not cease if that would render him or her stateless.

Article 32

If a person who has been granted a discharge from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia does not acquire foreign citizenship within one year from the day of delivery of

the decision on the discharge, the authority which has issued the decision may revoke it at the written request of that person.

A request for the revocation of a decision on a discharge from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia may be submitted within three months from the expiry of the time limit referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

A decision on a discharge from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be revoked at the request of the person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article if that person would otherwise be rendered stateless.

2. Cessation of Citizenship through Renunciation

Article 33

A citizen of the Republic of Serbia of age, who was born and lives abroad and has foreign citizenship as well, may renounce the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia before he or she attains 25 years of age.

With respect to renunciation of the citizenship of a child below 18 years of age the relevant provisions of Article 30 of this Law shall be applied.

3. Re-acquisition of Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia

Article 34

A person who was discharged from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia and has acquired foreign citizenship, and a person whose citizenship of the Republic of Serbia ceased at the request of his or her parents through a discharge or renunciation, may re-acquire the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia if he or she files an application for reacquiring of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, if he or she has attained 18 years of age and has not been deprived of his or her legal capacity and if he or she submits a written statement to the effect that he or she considers the Republic of Serbia to be his/her own state.

4. Cessation of Citizenship in order to Acquire the Citizenship of the Other Member State

Article 35

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia of a citizen of the Republic of Serbia shall cease if he or she has acquired the citizenship of the other Member State on the basis of his or her request.

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia of a child below 18 years of age shall also cease pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article if the citizenship of the Republic of

Serbia of the child's parents, or of one of them, ceases, if that is requested by the parent whose citizenship of the Republic of Serbia is ceasing and the other parent agrees to that.

If a child is over 14 years of age, his or her consent shall also be necessary for the cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia in terms of paragraph 2 of this Article.

5. Cessation of Citizenship under International Treaties

Article 36

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia may cease on the basis of a ratified international treaty.

6. Day of Cessation of Citizenship

Article 37

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall cease on the day of delivery of the decision on a discharge from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, and in the case of cessation of citizenship through renunciation – on the day when the statement on renunciation was made.

IV. PROCEDURE FOR ACQUISITION AND CESSATION OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Article 38

The Ministry in charge of internal affairs shall decide on applications for acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia by acceptance and cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

The procedure related to applications for acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia conducted by the Ministry in charge of internal affairs shall be urgent.

Article 39

Applications for acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be filed with an internal affairs department according to the place of permanent residence, i.e. residence, of the applicant, and may also be filed through the competent diplomatic or consular representative office of Serbia and Montenegro, which shall forward it immediately to the Ministry in charge of internal affairs.

Applications for acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be submitted in person or by an authorized person.

On behalf of a person deprived of his or her legal capacity the application shall be submitted by the guardian.

On behalf of a child below 18 years of age the application for acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be submitted by his or her parent, i.e. a child's parent shall make a written statement to the effect that he or she considers the Republic of Serbia to be his own state.

For acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia of a child over 14 years of age, also his or her consent shall be necessary.

Article 40

If a procedure for acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, instituted at the request of a party to it, may not be continued or completed without a certain action being taken by the applicant, the application shall be considered withdrawn if the applicant, despite a warning from the Ministry in charge of internal affairs, failed to perform the action required for the continuation or completion of the procedure within the given time limit, or if it can be inferred from the non-performance of the said action that he or she is no longer interested in the continuation of the procedure.

For the reasons set forth in paragraph 1 of this Article the procedure may be suspended upon the expiry of three months from the day of the warning, i.e. six months if the party to the procedure resides abroad.

Article 41

The Ministry in charge of internal affairs may reject an application for the acquiring of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia by acceptance, or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, although the conditions stipulated in this Law have been met, if it assesses that there are reasons of interest to the Republic of Serbia for which the application for acquisition or cessation of the citizenship should be rejected.

Article 42

A discharge from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall not be granted, i.e. renunciation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall not be accepted, during a state of war, a state of the immediate threat of war or a state of emergency.

Article 43

A decision on acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be delivered in compliance with the rules concerning mandatory personal delivery.

The Ministry in charge of internal affairs shall be obliged to immediately forward a final decision on acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia to the authority responsible for the records of citizens.

Article 44

With respect to a person who has acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, but has not been entered into the registry of births or records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia maintained pursuant to the hitherto regulations, the Ministry in charge of internal affairs shall establish the citizenship of that person at his or her request, i.e. at the request of the competent authority conducting a procedure related to the exercise of persons' rights, or *ex officio*.

The Ministry in charge of internal affairs shall issue a decision on the establishment of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia.

The person with respect to whom the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia has been established shall be entered into the records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia kept under the provisions of this Law.

Article 45

If the Ministry in charge of internal affairs establishes in the course of a procedure that a person has acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, or that his or her citizenship of the Republic of Serbia has ceased, in contravention of the citizenship regulations in force at the time of the acquisition or cessation of the citizenship, especially on the basis of a false or forged document or statement, on the basis of untrue facts, or other abuses and irregularities in the procedure that was conducted, i.e. that such person was entered into the records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia, it shall issue a decision on rescinding the acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia of that person, i.e. on the cancellation of the registration of that person in the records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

A decision on acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia may not be revoked if that would render the person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article stateless.

The Ministry in charge of internal affairs shall be obliged to forward a decision on the revocation of acquisition or cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia, i.e. on the cancellation of the registration in the records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia, to the authority responsible for record keeping in order for it to delete, or make, an entry in the records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

V. RECORDS OF CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA AND PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Article 46

The records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia shall be kept in the registries of births.

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be entered into the registry of births in accordance with this Law and regulations on registries.

The records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia shall be kept by an authority responsible for maintaining registries as a delegated task.

Citizens of the Republic of Serbia who were not born in the territory of the Republic of Serbia but have permanent residence, i.e. residence, in the Republic of Serbia, shall be entered into the registry of births according to the place of permanent residence, i.e. residence.

Citizens of the Republic of Serbia who were not born in the territory of the Republic of Serbia, nor have permanent residence, i.e. residence, in the Republic of Serbia, shall be entered into the registry of births of such municipality in the territory of the city of Belgrade as determined by the Assembly of the City of Belgrade.

The descendants of emigrants born abroad, as well as their spouses born abroad shall be entered into the registry of births of the Belgrade municipality referred to in paragraph 5 of this Article.

Article 47

The citizenship of the Republic of Serbia shall be proven by means of a birth certificate, citizenship certificate, and while abroad also by means of a valid travel document.

Article 48

A citizenship certificate is a public document which is proof of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia and shall be issued on the basis of data in the records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

The citizenship of Serbia and Montenegro as well shall be concurrently entered in a citizenship certificate.

The records referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be understood to mean the registry of births, registries of citizens of the Republic of Serbia maintained in conformity with the regulations in force before the effective date of this Law and other records of citizens kept in the Republic of Serbia.

Regulations governing the manner of entering the fact of citizenship into the registry of births, the forms for keeping records of decisions on acquisition and cessation of citizenship, and the citizenship certificate form, shall be issued by the Minister in charge of internal affairs.

Article 49

Registries of citizens of the Republic of Serbia maintained under the regulations in force before the effective date of this Law shall be closed with respect to the making of new entries on the day when the implementation of this Law commences.

Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this Article, the registry of citizens maintained in the Ministry in charge of internal affairs shall be closed upon registration of persons with

respect to whom decisions were issued on acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia before the day when the implementation of this Law commences.

On the basis of data in the registries of citizens referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the competent authority shall issue citizenship certificates at the request of interested persons and make changes of facts and data in those registries.

VI. SUPERVISION

Article 50

The supervision of the keeping of the records on citizens of the Republic of Serbia shall be carried out by the Ministry in charge of internal affairs.

VII. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 51

A Yugoslav citizen who had also the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia on the day of the proclamation of the Constitutional Charter of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, 4 February 2003, as well as a person who acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia after the above date and before the day on which the implementation of this Law commenced, shall be considered a citizen of the Republic of Serbia in terms of this Law.

Article 52

In terms of this Law, also a citizen of SFRY who has the citizenship of another republic of the former SFRY, i.e. the citizenship of another state formed in the territory of the former SFRY on the day when the implementation of this Law commences, and has been registered as a permanent resident in the territory of the Republic of Serbia for not less than nine years, shall be considered a citizen of the Republic of Serbia, provided that he or she has submitted a written statement to the effect that he or she considers himself/herself to be a citizen of the Republic of Serbia and an application to be entered into the records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

The written statement and application referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be filed with an internal affairs department in whose area the party to the procedure has permanent residence.

An internal affairs department, without passing a decision, shall issue to the competent authority a written order to enter into the records of citizens of the Republic of Serbia a person with respect to whom it has been established that he or she has met the conditions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. With respect to a person for whom it has been established that he or she has not met all the conditions, it shall reject the application by virtue of a decision.

The statement and application referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be filed within three years from the day on which the implementation of this Law has commenced.

Article 53

A procedure for deciding upon applications for acquisition and cessation of the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia initiated before the day on which the implementation of this Law commenced shall be completed under the provisions of this Law.

Article 54

The regulations referred to in Article 14, paragraph 5, Article 46, paragraph 5, and Article 48, paragraph 4, of this Law shall be passed within 60 days from the effective day of this Law.

Article 55

This Law shall supersede on the day of the commencement of its implementation the Law on Yugoslav Citizenship (“FRY Official Gazette,” nos. 33/96 and 9/01) and the Law on the Citizenship of the Socialist Republic of Serbia (“SRS Official Gazette,” nos. 45/79 and 13/83).

Article 56

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day from the day of its publication in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia” and its implementation shall commence upon the expiry of 60 days from the day of its entry into force.