

Apply for naturalization within the framework of reparation - for persons expatriated during National Socialism and their descendants - abroad.

If you or your ancestors were deprived of German citizenship during the National Socialist era, you can apply for re-naturalization under certain conditions.

Competent Department

• Bundesverwaltungsamt (BVA), ST - Staatsangehörigkeit

Basic information

The Federal Office of Administration (BVA) is a German higher federal authority in the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, for Construction and Home Affairs (BMI). Among other things, it is responsible as the citizenship authority for persons abroad for issues related to citizenship.

You can be re-naturalized if you were deprived of your German citizenship during the National Socialist era. If you are a descendant of such a person, you are also entitled to naturalization.

If you meet the requirements for (re)naturalization, you will be issued a naturalization certificate. After that, you will have German citizenship.

You can also appoint an authorized person, for example a lawyer, for your application. You must enclose a power of attorney for this purpose.

If you live abroad, you can submit your application for (re)naturalization within the framework of the redress process in writing or in person (appointment) at your locally competent foreign representation or in writing and online at the Federal Office of Administration (BVA).

Notice:

If you already live in Germany, please contact the municipal citizenship authority responsible for your place of residence for a procedure to determine your German citizenship.

Requirements

Applications for (re-)naturalization can be made by

• former Germans who were deprived of their German citizenship between January 30, 1933 and May 8, 1945 due to political, religious or racial persecution

or

• Descendants of persons who were deprived of their German citizenship between 30.01.1933 and 08.05.1945 due to political, religious or racial persecution

Further requirements:

 the deprivation was effected by automatic loss in accordance with the 11th Ordinance to the Reich Citizenship Act of 25.11.1941 (applies to all Jewish German citizens who had their habitual residence abroad at the time of entry into force or later)

or

• by loss in individual cases in accordance with the law on the revocation and withdrawal of German citizenship of 14.7.1933 (published in the Reichsanzeiger)

and

Your permanent residence is abroad

Note:

If German citizenship was not revoked by denaturalization, but the ancestor lost it in connection with National Socialist persecution measures, naturalization in accordance with § 15 StAG (Wiedergutmachungseinbürgerung nach Verfolgung) may be possible.

What documents do I need?

- · as persons of the generation directly affected
 - Birth certificate,
 - current identity document, for example, identity card or passport
 - Proof of former possession of German citizenship, for example
 - old German identity documents, including a passport
 - deregistration certificates from before 1945
 - old Heimatschein (certificate of origin)
 - proof of persecution fate, for example
 - entry of religious affiliation in birth or marriage certificates of you or your parents or, if applicable, your grandparents or your great-grandparents
 - notations in your passport or on other official documents

- references to receipt of compensation payments according to the Federal Compensation Law
- if applicable, proof of name changes
- if applicable, proof of acquisition of a foreign citizenship
- · as descendants of affected persons
 - Birth certificate,
 - current identity document, for example, identity card or passport,
 - other civil status documents, for example birth certificates or marriage certificates,
 - Proof of previous possession of German citizenship by your ancestors, for example old German identity papers (until 1945), deregistration certificates from before 1945, old Heimatschein,
 - proof of the persecution fate of your ancestors, for example
 - entry of religious affiliation in birth or marriage certificates (ancestors up to 1945)
 - notations in old passports or on other official documents (up to 1945)
 - references to receipt of compensation payments under the Federal Compensation Law
 - if applicable, proof of name changes,
 - if applicable, proof of acquisition of a foreign nationality of the ancestors

Procedure

You or your authorized representative can apply for naturalization as part of the restitution process in writing or by appointment in person at your competent German diplomatic mission abroad or in writing or online at the Federal Office of Administration (BVA). Written application

- You can obtain all the necessary information in advance by e-mail, telephone or in a
 personal meeting on site (appointment). Among other things, you will receive
 information on which documents you should enclose with your application.
- You can download the application form directly from the website of the Federal Office of Administration.
- If necessary, the diplomatic mission abroad can assist you in completing the application form.
- Complete the application form in full and sign it.
- Submit the signed application by post or in person together with the required supporting documents to your local German diplomatic mission abroad (appointment).
- However, contacting the diplomatic mission abroad is not mandatory. You can also send the application directly to the BVA by post.
- The BVA will check your application and inform you if further documents and information are required to process the application.

Online application

- Go to the website of the federal portal and fill out the application form for naturalization as part of the restitution process electronically.
- Note: You will need an eIDAS-compliant form of authentication for the online function.
- Attach the other required documents as a file.
- Send your application.
- The BVA will check your application and request certified copies of any required documents.

Complete the procedure (in writing and online):

- If your application is approved, the BVA will send your naturalization certificate to the relevant diplomatic mission abroad. They will inform you about the further procedure for issuing the naturalization certificate.
- If the BVA is unable to approve your application, you will be informed by the diplomatic mission abroad.

Legal bases

• Artikel 116 Abs. 2 Grundgesetz (GG)

What deadlines must be paid attention to?

none

How long does it take to process

For processing the application: usually 18 - 24 months

What are the costs?

gebührenfrei

Please keep in mind that you may incur costs for obtaining documents, translations and certifications.