



British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1914

1914 CHAPTER 17

PART II

NATURALIZATION OF ALIENS

2 Certificate of naturalization

- (1) The Secretary of State may grant a certificate of naturalization to an alien who makes an application for the purpose, and satisfies the Secretary of State—
 - (a) that he has either resided in His Majesty's dominions for a period of not less than five years in the manner required by this section, or been in the service of the Crown for not less than five years within the last eight years before the application; and
 - (b) that he is of good character and has an adequate knowledge of the English language; and
 - (c) that he intends if his application is granted either to reside in His Majesty's dominions or to enter or continue in the service of the Crown.
- (2) The residence required by this section is residence in the United Kingdom for not less than one year immediately preceding the application, and previous residence, either in the United Kingdom or in some other part of His Majesty's dominions, for a period of four years within the last eight years before the application.
- (3) The grant of a certificate of naturalization to any such alien shall be in the absolute discretion of the Secretary of State, and he may, with or without assigning any reason, give or withhold the certificate as he thinks most conducive to the public good, and no appeal shall lie from his decision.
- (4) A certificate of naturalization shall not take effect until the applicant has taken the oath of allegiance.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

- (5) In the case of a woman who was a British subject previously to her marriage to an alien, and whose husband has died or whose marriage has been dissolved, the requirements of this section as to residence shall not apply and the Secretary of State may in any other special case, if he thinks fit, grant a certificate of naturalization, although the four years' residence or five years' service has not been within the last eight years before the application.
- (6) For the purposes of this section a period spent in the service of the Crown may, if the Secretary of State thinks fit, be treated as equivalent to a period of residence in the United Kingdom.