



# British Nationality Act 1948

## CHAPTER 56

### BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT 1948

#### PART I

##### BRITISH NATIONALITY

- 1 British nationality by virtue of citizenship
- 2 Continuation of certain citizens of Eire as British subjects
- 3 Limitation of criminal liability of citizens of countries mentioned in s. 1 (3) and Eire. Status of citizens of Eire and British protected persons

#### PART II

##### CITIZENSHIP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES

###### *Citizenship by birth or descent*

- 4 Citizenship by birth
- 5 Citizenship by descent

###### *Citizenship by registration*

- 6 Registration of citizens of countries mentioned in s. 1 (3) or of Eire and wives of citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies
- 7 Registration of minors
- 8 Registration in countries mentioned in s. 1 (3), colonies, etc.
- 9 Effect of registration as a citizen

###### *Citizenship by naturalisation*

- 10 Naturalisation of aliens and British protected persons

*Citizenship by incorporation of territory*

- 11 Power to specify citizens by Order in Council on incorporation of territory

*Transitional*

- 12 British subjects before commencement of Act becoming citizens of United Kingdom and Colonies
- 13 British subjects whose citizenship has not been ascertained at the commencement of this Act
- 14 Women who have ceased to be British subjects by reason of marriage
- 15 Persons who have ceased to be British subjects by failure to make declaration of retention of British Nationality
- 16 Persons who have ceased to be British subjects on loss of British nationality by parent
- 17 Registration of births occurring before commencement of Act
- 18 Applications for naturalisation pending at the commencement of Act

*Renunciation and Deprivation of citizenship*

- 19 Renunciation of citizenship by reason of dual citizenship or nationality
- 20 Deprivation of citizenship
- 21 Deprivation of citizenship of United Kingdom and Colonies where persons deprived of citizenship elsewhere
- 22 Deprivation in colonies and other territories

**PART III**

## SUPPLEMENTAL

- 23 Legitimated children
- 24 Posthumous children
- 25 Certificate of citizenship in case of doubt
- 26 Discretion of Secretary of State, Governor or High Commissioner
- 27 Evidence
- 28 Offences
- 29 Orders in Council, regulations and rules
- 30 Protectorates and protected states
- 31 Assimilation of status of natural-born and other British subjects under existing enactments
- 32 Interpretation
- 33 Channel Islands and Isle of Man
- 34 Short title, commencement and repeal

---

**SCHEDULES**

FIRST SCHEDULE — Oath of Allegiance

SECOND — Qualifications for Naturalisation  
SCHEDULE

*Aliens*

- 1 Subject to the provisions of the next following paragraph, the...

2 The Secretary of State may if in the special circumstances...

*British protected persons*

3 The qualifications for naturalisation of a British protected person who...

*Application to colonies, protectorates and trust territories*

4 The foregoing provisions of this Schedule shall, in their application...

THIRD SCHEDULE — British Subjects without Citizenship under Section Thirteen of this Act

1 The law in force before the commencement of this Act...

2 So long as a person remains a British subject without...

3 If while a male person remains a British subject without...

FOURTH SCHEDULE — Enactments Repealed

PART I — ENACTMENTS RELATING TO NATURAL-BORN BRITISH SUBJECTS

PART II — OTHER ENACTMENTS