

NATIONALITY LAW, 5712-1952*

PART ONE: ACQUISITION OF NATIONALITY

1. Israel nationality is acquired-

Preliminary.

- by return (section 2),
- by residence in Israel (section 3),
- by birth (section 4) or
- by naturalisation (section 5 to 9).
- There shall be no Israel nationality save under this Law.

2.

Nationality
by Return.

- (a) Every '*oleh*** under the Law of Return, 5710-1950⁽¹⁾, shall become an Israel national.
- (b) Israel nationality by return is acquired-
 - (1) by a person who came as an '*oleh* into, or was born in, the country before the establishment of the State - with effect from the day of the establishment of the State;
 - (2) by a person having come to Israel as an '*oleh* after the establishment of the State - with effect from the day of his '*aliyah***;
 - (3) by a person born in Israel after the establishment of the State - with effect from the day of his birth;
 - (4) by a person who has received an '*oleh*'s certificate under section 3 of the Law of Return, 5710-1950 - with effect from the day of the issue of the certificate.
- (c) This section does not apply-
 - (1) to a person having ceased to be an inhabitant of Israel before the coming into force of this Law;
 - (2) to a person of full age who, immediately before the day of his '*aliyah* or the day of his '*oleh*'s certificate is a foreign national and who, on or before such day, declares that he does not desire to become an Israel national;
 - (3) to a minor whose parents have made a declaration under paragraph (2) and included him therein.

3.

Nationality
by Residence
in Israel.

- (a) A person who, immediately before the establishment of the State, was a Palestinian citizen and who does not become a Israel national under section 2, shall become an Israel national with effect from the day of the establishment of the State if -
 - (1) he was registered on the 4th Adar, 5712 (1st March 1952) as an inhabitant under the [Registration of Inhabitants Ordinance, 5709-1949^{\(2\)}](#); and
 - (2) he is an inhabitant of Israel on the day of the coming into force of this Law; and

- (3) he was in Israel, or in an area which became Israel territory after the establishment of the State, from the day of the establishment of the State to the day of the coming into force of this Law, or entered Israel legally during that period.
- (b) A person born after the establishment of the State who is an inhabitant of Israel on the day of the coming into force of this Law, and whose father or mother becomes an Israel national under subsection (a), shall become an Israel national with effect from the day of his birth.

Nationality
by Birth.

4. A person born while his father or mother is an Israel national shall be an Israel national from birth; where a person is born after his father's death, it shall be sufficient that his father was an Israel national at the time of his death.

5.

- (a) A person of full age, not being an Israel national, may obtain Israel nationality by naturalisation if -
 - (1) he is in Israel; and
 - (2) he has been in Israel for three years out of five years proceeding the day of the submission of his application; and
 - (3) he is entitled to reside in Israel permanently; and
 - (4) he has settled, or intends to settle, in Israel, and
 - (5) he has some knowledge of the Hebrew language, and
 - (6) he has renounced his prior nationality or has proved that he will cease to be a foreign national upon becoming an Israel national.
- (b) Where a person has applied for naturalisation, and he meets the requirements of subsection (a), the Minister of the Interior, if he thinks fit to do so, shall grant him Israel nationality by the issue of a certificate of naturalisation.
- (c) Prior to the grant of nationality, the applicant shall make the following declaration:

Naturali-
sation.

"I declare that I will be a loyal national of the State of Israel."

- (d) Nationality is acquired on the day of the declaration.

6.

- (a)
 - (1) A person who has served in the regular service of the Defence Army of Israel or who, after the 16th Kislev, 5708 (29th November 1947) has served in some other service which the Minister of Defence, by declaration published in *Reshumot*, has declared to be military service for the purpose of this section, and who has been duly discharged from such service; and
 - (2) a person who has lost a son or daughter in such service, are exempt from the requirements of section 5 (a), except the requirement of section 5 (a) (4).

Exemption
from con-
ditions of na-
turalisation.

- (b) A person applying for naturalisation after having made a declaration under section 2 (c) (2) is exempt from the requirement of section 5 (a) (2).
- (c) A person who immediately before the establishment of the State was a Palestinian citizen is exempt from the requirement of section 5 (a) (5).
- (d) The Minister of the Interior may exempt an applicant from all or any of the requirements of section 5 (a) (1), (2), (5) and (6) if there exists in his opinion a special reason justifying such exemption.

Naturalisation of husband and wife.

7. The spouse of a person who is an Israel national or who has applied for Israel nationality and meets or is exempt from the requirements of section 5 (a) may obtain Israel nationality by naturalisation even if she or he is a minor or does not meet the requirements of section (5) (a).

Naturalisation Minors.

8. Naturalisation confers Israel nationality also upon the minor children of the naturalised person.

9.

Grant of Nationality to Minors.

- (a) Where a minor, not being an Israel national, is an inhabitant of Israel, and his parents are not in Israel or have died or are unknown, the Minister of the Interior, on such conditions and with effect from such day as he may think fit, may grant him Israel nationality by the issue of a certificate of naturalisation.
- (b) Nationality may be granted as aforesaid upon the application of the father or mother of the minor or, if they have died or are unable to apply, upon the application of the guardian or person in charge of the minor.

PART TWO: LOSS OF NATIONALITY

10.

Renunciation of Nationality.

- (a) An Israel national of full age, not being an inhabitant of Israel, may declare that he desires to renounce his Israel nationality; such renunciation is subject to the consent of the Minister of the Interior; the declarant's Israel nationality terminates on the day fixed by the Minister.
- (b) The Israel nationality of a minor, not being an inhabitant of Israel, terminates upon his parents' renouncing their Israel nationality; it does not terminate so long as one of his parents remains an Israel national.

11.

Revocation of Naturalisation.

- (a) Where a person, having acquired Israeli nationality by naturalisation -
 - (1) has done so on the basis of false particulars; or
 - (2) has been abroad for seven consecutive years and has no effective connection with Israel, and has failed to prove that his effective connection with Israel was severed otherwise than by his own volition; or
 - (3) has committed an act of disloyalty towards the State of Israel, a District Court may, upon the application of the Minister of the Interior, revoke such person's naturalisation.

- (b) The Court may, upon such application, rule that the revocation shall apply also to such children of the naturalised person as acquired Israel nationality by virtue of his naturalisation and are inhabitants of a foreign country.
- (c) Israel nationality terminates on the day on which the judgment revoking naturalisation ceases to be appealable or on such later day as the Court may fix.

Saving of Liability.

12. Loss of Israel nationality does not relieve from a liability arising out of such nationality and created before its loss.

PART THREE: FURTHER PROVISIONS

13. In this Law -

"of full age" means of the age of eighteen years or over;

Interpretation.

"minor" means a person under eighteen years of age;

"child" includes an adopted child, and "parents" includes adoptive parents;

"foreign nationality" includes foreign citizenship, and "foreign national" includes a foreign citizen, but does not include a Palestinian citizen.

14.

Dual nationality and dual residence.

- (a) Save for the purposes of naturalisation, acquisition of Israel nationality is not conditional upon renunciation of a prior nationality.
- (b) An Israel national who is also a foreign national shall, for the purposes of Israel law, be considered an Israel national.
- (c) An inhabitant of Israel residing abroad shall, for the purposes of this Law, be considered an inhabitant of Israel so long as he has not settled abroad.

Evidence of Nationality.

15. An Israel national may obtain from the Minister of the Interior a certificate attesting his Israel nationality.

Offence.

16. A person who knowingly gives false particulars as to a matter affecting his own or another person's acquisition or loss of Israel nationality is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to fine not exceeding five hundred pounds, or to both such penalties.

17.

Implementation and regulations.

- (a) The Minister of the Interior is charged with the implementation of this Law and may make regulations as to any matter relating to its implementation, including the payment of fees and exemption from the payment thereof.
- (b) The Minister of Justice may make regulations as to proceedings in District Courts under this Law, including appeals from decisions of such Courts.

18.

Repeal,
adaptation
of laws and
validation.

- (a) The Palestinian Citizenship Orders, 1925-1942⁽³⁾, are repealed with effect from the day of the establishment of the State.
- (b) Any reference in any provision of law to Palestinian citizenship or Palestinian citizens shall henceforth be read as a reference to Israel nationality or Israel nationals.
- (c) Any act done in the period between the establishment of the State and the day of the coming into force of this Law shall be deemed to be valid if it were valid had this Law been in force at the time it was done.

19.

Commence-
ment.

- (a) This Law shall come into force on the 21st Tammuz, 5712 (14th July, 1952).
- (b) Even before that day, the Minister of the Interior may make regulations as to declarations under section 2(c)(2).

MOSHE SHARETT
Minister of Foreign Affairs

MOSHE SHAPIRA
*Minister of the
Interior*

YOSEF SPRINZAK
*Chairman of the Knesset
Acting President of the State*

* Passed by the Knesset on the 6th Nisan, 5712 (1st April, 1952). and published in *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* No. 95 of the 13th Nisan, 5712 (8th April, 1952), P. 146; the Bill was published in *Hatza'ot Chok* No. 93 of the 22nd Cheshvan, 5712 (21st November, 1951), p. 22.

** Translator's Note: '*oleh*' and '*aliyah*' mean respectively a Jew immigrating, and the immigration of a Jew, into the Land of Israel.

(1) *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* No. 51 of the 21st Tammuz, 5710 (6th July, 1950), p. 159.

⁽²⁾ *I.R.* No. 48 of the 5th Shevat, 5709 (4th February, 1949), Suppl. I, p. 164.

⁽³⁾ *Palestine Gazette* No. 1210 of the 16th July, 1942, Suppl. 11, p. 1193 (English Edition).

THIS LAW: *Nationality Law* (passed by the Knesset April 1, 1952).

ITS AMENDMENTS: (3.3.58) ([8.7.68](#)) (5.17.71)

SOURCE: "*Laws of the State of Israel: Authorized Translation from the Hebrew, Volume 6*". Government Printer, Jerusalem, Israel (1948-1987), p. 50-3.

(C) [Israel Law Resource Center](#), February, 2007.