



Consolato Generale d'Italia

500 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1850 – Chicago, Illinois 60611

www.conschicago.esteri.it

RECOGNITION OF ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP FOR PEOPLE OF ITALIAN DESCENT (*Jure sanguinis*)

Italian Citizenship is based upon the principle of “jus sanguinis” (blood right) meaning that the child born to an Italian father or mother is an Italian citizen regardless of the place of birth.

In order to be eligible for the recognition of Italian citizenship, you have to prove that your Italian ancestor born in Italy was still an Italian citizen (i.e. did **not** become a citizen of another Country) before their son or daughter became an adult (age of majority was 21 until March 10, 1975 and 18 thereafter).

This is the reason why we strongly suggest you start with acquiring your ancestor’s Italian birth certificate and his/her naturalization paper.

ONLY IF YOU ARE CERTAIN THAT YOUR ITALIAN BORN ANCESTOR’S NATURALIZATION DID NOT HAPPEN BEFORE THEIR SON OR DAUGHTER (I.E. YOUR INTERMEDIATE ANCESTOR) REACHED THE AGE OF MAJORITY, YOU MAY COLLECT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS.

Please follow the instructions under “Guidelines for all categories” for information on how to proceed..

IMPORTANT:

- **A woman can transfer citizenship only to her children born after 01/01/1948**, if she was not a naturalized citizen of another country before her child became an adult.
- The acquisition of a foreign citizenship by an Italian citizen **on or after August 16, 1992** does not cause the loss of their Italian citizenship.

BEFORE COLLECTING ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS PLEASE NOTE:

- You can submit your application to this Consulate General if you are a PERMANENT RESIDENT of the following States: Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming (**Legal Aliens must submit their Permanent Resident Card**).
- Your application is personal and must be presented IN PERSON together with all supporting documents. To apply, you need to make an appointment online (please refer to dedicated platform Prenot@mi).
- Applicants are exempt from submitting original documents for their ancestor and ascendants **only** if the documents were already submitted by a family member at Consulate General of Italy in Chicago. In this case, the applicant will have to provide photocopies of these documents
- Residents of Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming whose family members have been recognized Italian citizens at a different Consulate or Comune must submit to this Office all original documentation starting from the Italian-born ancestor.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED THAT APPLYING FOR ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP MAY AFFECT YOUR U.S. CITIZENSHIP STATUS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT U.S. AUTHORITIES.

Documents to prove your eligibility
in accordance with your personal situation and
to be collected before your scheduled appointment

Category n. 1:

Father born in Italy, an Italian citizen at the time of your becoming of age.

1. FATHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE **from Italy**;
2. MOTHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE;
3. PARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE;
4. FATHER'S CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION or his permanent resident card.
5. **If the above document is not available, please see guidelines below under "USA NATURALIZATION";**
6. FATHER'S DEATH CERTIFICATE (if applicable) OR HIS CURRENT ADDRESS.

Category n.2:

Mother born in Italy, an Italian citizen at the time of your becoming of age. Applicant's date of birth after January 1st, 1948.

Provide the same documents as in **Category n.1**, but for your mother.

Category n.3:

Father born in the United States, paternal grandfather born in Italy, an Italian citizen at the time of your father's becoming of age.

1. PATERNAL GRANDFATHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE **from Italy**;
2. PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE;
3. GRANDPARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE;
4. GRANDFATHER'S CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION;
5. **If the above document is not available, please see guidelines below under "USA NATURALIZATION";**
6. PATERNAL GRANDFATHER'S AND/OR GRANDMOTHER'S DEATH CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE);
7. FATHER'S AND MOTHER'S BIRTH/MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE;
8. FATHER'S AND/OR MOTHER'S DEATH CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE)

Category n.4:

Mother born in the United States, maternal grandfather born in Italy, an Italian citizen at the time of your mother's becoming of age, you were born after January 1, 1948.

Provide the same documents as in **Category n.3**, but for your maternal grandfather.

Category n. 5:

Paternal or maternal grandfather born in the United States, paternal or maternal great grandfather born in Italy, an Italian citizen at the time of your paternal or maternal grandfather's becoming of age.

1. PATERNAL/MATERNAL GREAT GRANDFATHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE, **from Italy**;
2. PATERNAL/MATERNAL GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE;
3. PATERNAL/MATERNAL GREAT GRANDPARENTS' MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATE;
4. PATERNAL/MATERNAL GREAT GRANDFATHER'S CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION;
5. **If the above document is not available, please see guidelines below under "USA NATURALIZATION";**
6. PATERNAL/MATERNAL GRANDFATHER'S AND GRANDMOTHER'S BIRTH/MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND DEATH CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE);
7. FATHER'S AND MOTHER'S BIRTH/MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND DEATH CERTIFICATE (IF AVAILABLE).

PLEASE NOTE:

In the event of discrepancies and/or lack of information in the certificates/documents presented, this Consulate General may request additional documentation.

Documents referring to the applicant:

1. **APPLICATION FORMS, AND DECLARATIONS** THAT YOU AND YOUR INTERMEDIATE ANCESTOR/S HAVE NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BEFORE ANY ITALIAN AUTHORITY;
2. BIRTH CERTIFICATE;
3. ALL MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RECORDS (if applicable): please follow the guidelines under “VITAL RECORDS”.
4. MINOR CHILD(REN)’S BIRTH CERTIFICATE: please follow the guidelines under “VITAL RECORDS”.
5. ORIGINAL and a photocopy of your U.S. PASSPORT, DRIVER’S LICENSE and a utility bill.
6. **If not a U.S. citizen:** original and a photocopy of your national PASSPORT and permanent resident card.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The application forms 1-2-3 and/or 4 must be filled out before coming for the scheduled appointment.
- Forms 1-2 and 4 must be signed before the Consular Officer.
- Form 3 has to be signed by the living ascendant(s). If they cannot be present during the interview, the signature on the form must be signed before a Notary Public.

Please click the link “FORMS” to download Forms 1-2-3-4.

GUIDELINES

FOR ALL CATEGORIES

- **HOW TO REQUEST THE ANCESTOR'S BIRTH/MARRIAGE/DEATH CERTIFICATES FROM ITALY**

1) Write to the "Comune" where the Italian ancestor was born, requesting a birth certificate in "formato internazionale" or the "estratto per riassunto" (showing his/her father's and mother's names), enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Search the address of the Comune on the page: www.comuni.it.

Address your request to:

COMUNE DI _____
Ufficio Anagrafe – Stato Civile
(Zip code) _____ (City) _____ (Province of) _____
ITALY

- **HOW TO REQUEST THE ANCESTOR'S BIRTH/MARRIAGE/DEATH CERTIFICATES IN THE U.S.A.**

All certificates must be "LONG FORM" in a "CERTIFIED COPY". These certificates may be requested from the Office of Vital Statistics of the County or of the State where the birth/marriage/death took place. Please check that the birth certificate lists the **city of birth, parents' names**, and that it was issued by a government agency. Certificates reporting only the "County" of birth will not be accepted.

We require an accurate, complete, and typed translation of all foreign Vital Records certificates for the applicant and their Italian-line ancestors.

- **APOSTILLE**

U.S. Birth/Marriage/Death records pertaining to the "Italian side" (starting with your ancestor and ending with you - including the "intermediate" ancestors who are not applying for citizenship) must be legalized with an "APOSTILLE" by the Secretary of State of the State where the document has been issued. **The Apostille is not a stamp on the certificate.**

The Certificate of Naturalization and/or similar documentation needs not be legalized by the "APOSTILLE".

THE APOSTILLE need not be translated.

- **VITAL RECORDS IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ITALIAN**

Birth, marriage, death certificates **pertaining to the Italian side** (i.e. from your ancestor up to you, including the ones relating to "intermediate" ancestors who are not applying for citizenship) **must be translated into Italian**. Documents that **do not** need to be translated are **those relating to the "non-Italian" side and the U.S. Certificate of Naturalization or any statement releasing information on the naturalization status of the ancestors.**

- **DOCUMENTS ISSUED IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE U.S.A. OR ITALY**

Visit the webpage of the Italian Consulate/Embassy that has jurisdiction over the Country where the certificate has been issued to learn how to proceed for the legalization of the certificate and translation. A list of all Italian Consulate/Embassies abroad is available at www.esteri.it ("Farnesina" - "Rappresentanze Diplomatiche" - "Ambasciate e Consolati" – Country).

- **IF YOU ARE MARRIED**

You need to submit a certified copy of the "**Marriage license/certification**": please check that your marriage certificate lists both groom and bride's **city of birth, parents' names, date and place of the marriage**. If not, you must provide in addition a certified copy of the "**Marriage application and record**". Both the marriage license and the certificate must be legalized with an **Apostille**. Please provide a certified copy of **your spouse's birth certificate** (no translation and Apostille required) with a photocopy of his/her American passport or ID card/driver's license. Fill out the "**Application Form to register marriage certificates in Italy**" that can be found under "VITAL RECORDS".

- **IF YOUR MARRIAGE TOOK PLACE BEFORE APRIL 27, 1983** and your wife expresses a will to become an Italian citizen, she needs to make an appointment and come IN PERSON to her scheduled appointment. She will need to show her passport, state ID or Driving License and a utility bill. She will need to bring to her appointment a certified copy of her “long form” birth certificate, translated into Italian and legalized with an “Apostille” and fill out and sign a form (provided during the interview) before an Officer of the Consulate General.

- **DISCREPANCIES**

Check carefully all the documents **word-for-word** to make sure that no discrepancies appear.

Discrepancies are typographical errors, missing middle names, use of nicknames, etc.

Each change or error found in your ancestor’s documents must be corrected, wherever possible, through an official “affidavit to amend a record” at the Vital Statistics Office that issued that document. You can also ask for an “a.k.a.” (also known as) with all the names that your ancestor used throughout their life. The Vital Records Office will add the AKA to the original certificate.

Any discrepancies in your own documents must be amended and corrected.

This includes your own name, your spouse’s name, and your parents’ names.

If relevant discrepancies are found in your own Vital Records your application will not be accepted.

- **U.S.A. NATURALIZATION**

Your Italian-born ancestor’s Certificate of Naturalization is a crucial piece of your application for recognition of Italian citizenship.

You must bring to your appointment:

The CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION and/or a certified copy of his “petition for naturalization” and “oath of allegiance” (which is an official document bearing the red ribbon and gold seal of NARA).

If you cannot acquire a certificate of naturalization or a petition, you must provide an **Official statement** of no record (**original, not a photocopy, and with the Office Seal**) to be requested to each Office contacted. In addition to “no record found” letters, we also request additional proof that your ancestor did not naturalize (such as, for instance, census records, draft cards, alien files, voter list records, US passport application records...)

If your ancestor is still alive and they are not an American citizen, you can submit **their Italian passport and current U.S. permanent resident card (“green card”)**.

Here is a list of Offices you may contact:

PLEASE NOTE:

When submitting your request, please include your Italian ancestor’s full name (and aliases, nicknames and any other name that appeared on any official document), possible places and dates of birth which they may have used during their life, according to the documents you collected.

Your search should cover the time of arrival of your Italian ancestor in the USA, up to their US born child reaching the age of majority, and it should be supported by Official statements.

1. **USCIS** in Washington D.C. (<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>). This Office can provide a Certificate of Naturalization or a **certification of nonexistence of a specific record.**
2. **The Court of the County where your ancestor resided and where their child was born** can also provide Certificates of Naturalization.
3. **USCIS Genealogy Program**, in Washington, DC (www.uscis.gov/genealogy). This office can send you a copy of your ancestor’s certificate or alien registration card, which must be supported by a County or NARA record, because USCIS will only release a certified copy to the person who became a citizen.
4. **The National Archives** in Washington, DC (www.nara.gov). This office collects documents from all over the United States: you could obtain a certified copy of your ancestor’s “petition for naturalization” and “oath of allegiance”

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from the National Archives. Documents from NARA must be certified copies, bearing the red ribbon and gold seal of NARA. If no record is found, they should issue a no record found letter.

5. **The Regional Office of the National Archives.** This office keeps Federal documents pertaining to the States in its area of jurisdiction. It can also provide certified copies of petitions for naturalization and oaths of allegiance. Documents from NARA must be certified copies, bearing the red ribbon and gold seal of NARA.
6. **Census record.** It may provide additional relevant information despite the fact that the information collected is based on the personal declarations. Census records include Immigration Records, Naturalization Records, Ship Passenger Lists, Military records, U.S. Passport applications, Voter List Records and others (www.census.org). Ask for the first U.S. Census dated after your Italian-born ascendant's child reached the age of majority.
7. **IF YOUR ITALIAN ANCESTOR IMMIGRATED TO A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE U.S.A. YOU MUST PRESENT THE NATURALIZATION RECORD ISSUED BY THAT COUNTRY.** For more information, see the website of the Italian Consulate/Embassy that has jurisdiction over that Country. A list of all Italian Consulate/Embassies abroad is available at: www.esteri.it ("Farnesina" - "Rappresentanze Diplomatiche" - "Ambasciate e Consolati" – Country).

Please note: All documents referring to your ancestor's naturalization need not be translated.

