

Special Notice to all Sri Lankans

If a child is born to Sri Lankan parents outside Sri Lanka, actions should be taken by the parents to submit an application to the Department of Immigration and Emigration for citizenship registration of the child. Please be noted that at least one of the parents of the child must be of Sri Lankan nationality to be eligible to submit an application for obtaining the said Sri Lankan citizenship on behalf of the child.

The birth registration and the citizenship application procedure is usually done at the same time when the birth of the child is registered at the Consulate General, and an amount of AED 170 is charged for sending the duly completed Citizenship Certificate application with relevant annexures. After submission of the application, it may take between 10 to 12 months to receive the Citizenship Certificate. The parents are advised to keep the receipt issued for obtaining the Citizenship Certificate safely until they receive the same from the Consulate General.

The Citizenship Certificate so received should be kept safely and the original should be produced each time when the applications are made on behalf of the child for renewal of passports.

Additionally, those who were born outside Sri Lanka and obtained Sri Lankan Citizenship Certificate, upon attaining the age as specified in the footnote of the Citizenship Certificate (i.e. 18 years of age for applications prior to 2011 and 21 years of age after 2011) , must visit the Department of Immigration and Emigration of Sri Lanka and declare before the relevant officer of the citizenship branch of the Department of Immigration and Emigration that they wish to retain their Sri Lankan citizenship as stipulated in the Ceylon Citizenship Act dated 15th November 1948 whereby the Citizenship Certificate is amended accordingly.

Please be noted that the persons who fail to fulfil the above requirement in due time are neither in a position to apply for a Sri Lankan passport from a Sri Lankan Mission abroad nor to keep a Sri Lankan passport for travelling purposes to Sri Lanka or any other country, as the department of Immigration and Emigration considers those persons do not wish to retain their Sri Lankan citizenship assuming that they have renounced their citizenship as per the provisions of the Ceylon Citizenship Act.

Hence, this is to inform those Sri Lankan citizens who were born outside of Sri Lanka and wish to retain Sri Lankan citizenship without renouncing, **MUST** follow the procedure mentioned in paragraph 4 above, had they failed to declare retaining of Sri Lankan citizenship up to now.