

## CROATIAN CITIZENSHIP OVERVIEW

### NOTE:

Please take into account that this overview does not cover all the possible cases regulated by the Croatian Citizenship Law and is intended to be informative in nature. The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, as the competent authority, after running thorough checks, may decide that an applicant is required to submit additional proof in order to back up his/her application. If the legal prerequisites are not met, an applicant will receive a negative decision.

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### 1. WHO CAN OBTAIN CROATIAN CITIZENSHIP?

#### a) A child born to at least one Croatian citizen parent

- i. If a child is born outside Croatia and at least one parent is a Croatian citizen at the time of the child's birth, the child can obtain Croatian citizenship simply by registering before he/she turns 18 years of age. The parents need to register (registration form available at the Consulate) such a child at the Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia (the Consulate) and submit **a copy of their own Croatian passport(s) or *Domovnica* + a copy of the Canadian passport, their marriage certificate (if their marriage hasn't been registered with Croatian authorities) and an original birth certificate with parental information or in long form of the child** (birth certificate and marriage certificate need to be certified with *apostille* and translated; more info on the procedure below in [Section 6](#)).
- ii. If the parents did not register such a child before he/she turned 18, the child, i.e. the person can do it personally after he/she turns 18 years of age, but before he/she turns 21 years of age. Such a person needs to submit a valid passport, birth certificate with parental information or in long form with *apostille* and translated and proof that at least one parent was Croatian citizen at the moment of their birth (*for example parent's old Domovnica or Croatian passport*).

## b) Emigrants from Croatia and their descendants

Persons who have emigrated from the territory of **present-day Croatia** before October 8, 1991, their spouses and descendants as well as spouses of their descendants can obtain Croatian citizenship. Underage children can be included in the parents' [application](#).

Applicants under this Article (emigrants from Croatia and their descendants) are NO LONGER required to take a test of Croatian language and culture.

List of documents to be submitted by the applicant for himself/herself:

- completed and signed application form (available for [download](#) or at the Consulate)
- valid passport (and proof of other citizenship(s) if the person has more than one)
- resume and personal statement of motivation in Croatian explaining the reason(s) for applying for Croatian citizenship with additional details on the emigration path and timing of their emigration or that of their ancestors from Croatia (more info on preparing a resume in [Section 6](#))
- birth certificate<sup>1</sup> with parental information or in long form (with *apostille* and translated)
  - ✓ if the applicant is not the son/daughter of a Croatian emigrant, but rather grandson/granddaughter or even more removed, the continuity of relation to the emigrant must be proven by birth certificates of all intermediary relatives (e.g. not only the applicant's birth certificate is required but also parent's birth certificate proving intermediary relation to the emigrant)
- if married, a copy of marriage certificate<sup>2</sup> (with *apostille* and translated into Croatian)
- Canadian criminal record check (not older than 6 months and translated into Croatian)
  - ✓ if the applicant has more than one citizenship than criminal record checks from the country/ies of his/her other citizenship(s) are to be submitted as well
- proof of emigration from Croatia, i.e. immigration to Canada from Croatia (birth certificate of the ancestor who emigrated from Croatia if available and any travel document proving emigration from Croatia including Canadian Landing immigrant document)
  - In case underage children are included in the application, each child's valid ID (if available), birth certificate (with *apostille* and translated), and proof of citizenship(s) must be submitted with the applicant's documentation. Since the application is submitted by one parent (i.e. applicant), the other parent must co-sign the application in person at the Consulate (providing a valid ID) as proof of his/her consent. In case only one parent has custody of the child or one parent is deceased proof thereof (with *apostille* and translated) must be submitted.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants born in Croatia do not need to submit a new Croatian birth certificate.

<sup>2</sup> Applicants who were married in Croatia or whose marriage is registered in the Croatian marriage registry do not need to submit a new Croatian marriage certificate.

### c) Croats (members of the Croatian people)

Persons who are ethnically Croatian, but do not have Croatian citizenship.

Underage children can be included in the parents' [application](#).

List of documents to be submitted by the applicant for himself/herself:

- completed and signed application form (available for [download](#) or at the Consulate)
  - valid passport (and proof of other citizenship(s) if the person has more than one)
  - resume and personal statement of motivation in Croatian explaining the reason(s) for applying for Croatian citizenship with additional details on whether the person considers himself/herself as a member of the Croatian people (Croat); more info on preparing a resume in [Section 6](#)
  - birth certificate<sup>3</sup> with parental information or long form (with *apostille* and translated into Croatian)
  - if married, a copy of marriage certificate<sup>4</sup> (with *apostille* and translated into Croatian)
  - Canadian criminal record check (not older than 6 months and translated into Croatian)
    - ✓ if the applicant has more than one citizenship than criminal record checks from the country/ies of his/her other citizenship(s) are to be submitted as well
  - proof of Croatian ethnicity or proof of promoting Croatian interests abroad (for example any legal document where Croatian ethnicity is stated AND/OR, for example certificate from Croatian folklore groups, sports clubs or other Croatian associations abroad of which the applicant is/was a member)
    - ✓ if both parents of the applicant are without doubt members of the Croatian people (Croats), the applicant doesn't need to submit such evidence for himself/herself – he/she needs only to submit evidence for their parents (for example any legal document where parents' Croatian ethnicity is stated)
- In case underage children are included in the application, each child's valid ID (if available), birth certificate (with *apostille* and translated), and proof of citizenship(s) must be submitted with the applicant's documentation. Since the application is submitted by one parent (i.e. applicant), the other parent must co-sign the application in person at the Consulate (providing a valid ID) as proof of his/her consent. In case only one parent has custody of the child or one parent is deceased proof thereof (with *apostille* and translated) must be submitted.

### d) Persons who have acquired the status of a Croatian citizen according to legislation in force before October 8, 1991 but are not registered in the Croatian Register of Citizens

Persons born before **October 8, 1991** to BOTH Croatian parents from Croatia (each of whom had Croatian republic citizenship at the moment of the person's birth), who were never registered in the Croatian Register of Citizens can undergo the procedure for determining Croatian citizenship.

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<sup>3</sup> Applicants born in Croatia do not need to submit a new Croatian birth certificate.

<sup>4</sup> Applicants who were married in Croatia or whose marriage is registered in the Croatian marriage registry do not need to submit a new Croatian marriage certificate.

List of documents to be submitted:

- completed and signed application form (available for [download](#) or at the Consulate)
- valid passport (and proof of other citizenship(s) if the person has more than one)
- resume with applicant's personal details, information relating to parents, emigration path and other citizenship(s)
- birth certificate with parental information or long form (with *apostille* and translated into Croatian)
- if married, a copy of marriage certificate (with *apostille* and translated into Croatian)
- birth or marriage certificate of the applicant's parents
- proof of Croatian citizenship of the applicant's parents or one parent (e.g. Croatian passport, *Domovnica*)
- persons who emigrated from Croatia prior to October 8, 1991 may also submit proof of former SFRY citizenship (an old passport, certificate of citizenship, military or employment records and similar)

There are also other legal grounds for obtaining Croatian citizenship. Comprehensive information is also available on the website of the competent authority – Croatian Ministry of the Interior in [Croatian](#) as well as in [English](#), together with the [Croatian Citizenship Law](#) and all its amendments.

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## 2. WHO QUALIFIES AS AN EMIGRANT?

An “emigrant” is a person who emigrated from the territory of the Republic of Croatia **before October 8, 1991** with the intention to live abroad permanently.

*For example, an emigrant is a person who emigrated from Zagreb to Canada in 1978 with the intention to live abroad permanently.*

An emigrant can also be a **Croat** (member of the Croatian people) who emigrated from other parts of former countries of which Croatia was a member at the time of emigration. Along with instructions listed in [Section 1b](#), such a person needs to prove that he/she is a member of the Croatian people (Croat).

*For example, an emigrant is also a Croat (member of the Croatian people) who emigrated from Bosnia and Hercegovina to Canada while Croatia and Bosnia and Hercegovina were part of the same former country.*

Note that the following persons are **not** considered emigrants: I. emigrated from the territory of the Republic of Croatia on the basis of an international agreement or II. denounced their Croatian citizenship, III. who simply changed the place of residence within the former country Croatia was a part of, or IV. who emigrated from Croatia abroad but did not have Croatian republic citizenship nor was Croatia their usual place of residence.

*For example, a person who moved from Croatia to Montenegro in 1984 is not considered an emigrant because Croatia and Montenegro were part of the same former country. Also, if someone emigrated from Croatia in 1993 this person is not considered an emigrant in this sense because it was after October 8, 1991.*

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### 3. HOW TO APPLY?

If you live in Canada you may only apply through the Consulate General in Mississauga or the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Ottawa - depending on where you live.

If you live in Ontario (excluding Ottawa), Manitoba, Saskatchewan or the Northwest Territories, you may only apply through the Consulate General in Mississauga (see contact information below). If you live in other parts of Canada, you may only apply through the Embassy in Ottawa (see contact information below).

**Submitting a citizenship application can only be done in person. It cannot be done by mail or by proxy.**

You can make an appointment by e-mail or telephone. You will need to bring all the necessary documents referenced herein to the appointment and pay the fee (more info in [Section 4](#)) upon submitting your application.

During the processing of your application, which is done by the Croatian Ministry of the Interior, the staff of the Consulate General will contact you in case of any developments regarding your application. When the Croatian Ministry of the Interior reaches a decision on your application, you will be contacted by the Consulate General's staff and instructed on how to proceed.

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### 4. WHAT ARE THE COST AND WAITING PERIOD?

- The fee for child registration ([Section 1a i.](#) and [1a ii.](#)) including a *Domovnica* is \$30.12 CAD
- The fee for applying for Croatian citizenship ([Section 1b](#) and [1c](#)) is \$288.58 CAD
- The fee for determining Croatian citizenship ([Section 1d](#)) is \$81.61 CAD

The fees are non-refundable, regardless of the outcome of the application. The fees are payable upon submitting the application either by debit card, personal cheque or money order. The fees may vary depending on the exchange rate of the Euro and the Canadian dollar.

The waiting period is not strictly defined and depends on each individual case. The expected waiting time for a fully completed application is around 18-24 months, but may take longer in some cases.

## 5. IMPORTANT NOTICE

All decisions on citizenship applications are made by the Croatian Ministry of the Interior. It is strongly advised to submit a fully completed application with all the necessary documents in order to avoid later corrections and updates to the application and reduce the length of the waiting period. Any changes in contact information (e.g. new address) or personal information (name change) during the process, i.e. after submitting the application and paying the fee, must be communicated to the Consulate General so the application can be updated.

### **VERY IMPORTANT:**

A necessary prerequisite for obtaining Croatian citizenship is that the personal information (i.e. name, date and place of birth) of applicants or their parents/ancestors either matches up with the personal information reflected in Croatian registries or that proof of legal change of name in Canada is submitted with the application.

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## 6. INTERPRETATION AND APPLICABLE DOCUMENTATION

### a) Interpretation

**Apostille NEW** – effective January 11, 2024, Canada has joined The Hague Apostille Convention and started issuing *apostille*, which has replaced the previous document authentication/legalization process. This means Canadian documents such as birth, marriage or death certificates will no longer be fully legalized by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the Croatian Embassy in Ottawa in order to be used in Croatia.

As of January 11, 2024, these documents require an *apostille* stamp/certificate, which is obtained directly **from provincial authorities** in the case of documents issued/notarized in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and Quebec. In the case of documents issued/notarized in Manitoba, Northwest Territories, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Prince Edward Island, and Yukon, the *apostille* stamp/certificate is obtained directly **from GAC** (without the second-step legalization by the Croatian Embassy in Ottawa).

List of authorities with instructions for getting *apostille* in Canada:

GAC - [GAC - Authentication of Documents](#) → [Changes to the process](#)

Ontario - [Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery of Ontario](#)

Saskatchewan - [Ministry of Justice and Attorney General of Saskatchewan](#)

Alberta - [Ministry of Justice of Alberta](#)

British Columbia - [Ministry of the Attorney General of British Columbia](#)

Quebec - [Ministère de la Justice du Québec](#)

**Passport** – travel document that serves as proof of identity and citizenship. Needs to be valid. The name in the applicant’s passport must match the name in the applicant’s birth and marriage certificate(s).

**Resume** – instructions when preparing a resume (biography):

A resume of the applicant must be written in either Croatian or translated into Croatian with an enclosed English version (translated by a certified translator). The resume should include his/her name, date and place of birth, address, education, current employment, parents’ names, dates and places of birth of the parents, and the parents’ emigration path (if applicable). The format of the resume is not defined; any format may be used as long as it contains the necessary information.

**Personal statement of motivation** – a written statement of the applicant must be written in either Croatian or translated into Croatian with an enclosed English version (translated by a certified translator). It should explain the motivation and reasons of the applicant for applying for Croatian citizenship.

**Translation, i.e. translated document** – the official language in Croatia is Croatian. Applicant’s foreign birth and marriage certificate(s) and criminal check(s) need to be translated into Croatian by a certified translator in order to be used in Croatia by Croatian authorities. In certain cases, translation of other supporting documents submitted with the application may be deemed necessary by the competent authority during the process. A directory of some of certified translators/interpreters in Ontario is available at: <https://atio.on.ca/directory/>

## b) Applicable documentation

**Application forms** are available at the Consulate General / Embassy or online at:

<https://mup.gov.hr> > Građani > Moji dokumenti > Državljanstvo > Dokumenti i linkovi.

There are 4 application forms\* pertaining to obtaining Croatian citizenship:

1. Over 18 years of age applicant applying alone ([Section 1b](#) and [1c](#)) ([download](#))
2. Over 18 years of age applicant including his child(ren) ([Section 1b](#) and [1c](#)) ([download](#))
3. Only for child(ren) ([Section 1b](#) and [1c](#)) ([download](#))
4. For determining Croatian citizenship ([Section 1d](#)) ([download](#))

\*In case of issues with download links, please visit the above website and locate the forms.

**Birth certificate with parental information** - form of birth certificate with parental information.  
 Must be certified with *apostille* as described in [Section 6a](#)






Birth certificate in long form – officially known as **Certified Copy of the Birth Registration or Statement of Live Birth.**

Must be certified with *apostille* as described in [Section 6a](#) and translated into Croatian by a certified translator.


PAGE 1 of 1


**Certified A True Photostatic Print of a Record**  
 Office of the Registrar General  
 Bureau du registraire général

on file at the  
 Office of the Registrar General  
 Ontario, Canada  
 se trouvent dans les dossiers du  
 Bureau du registraire général  
 (Ontario) Canada

Registration Number:  
 Numéro d'enregistrement : [REDACTED]  
 Certificate number:  
 Numéro du certificat : [REDACTED]  
 Date issued:  
 Date de délivrance : [REDACTED]  
 File number:  
 Numéro de dossier : [REDACTED]

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**Ontario** Office of the Registrar General  
 P.O. Box 4600  
 163 Red River Road  
 Thunder Bay ON P7B 5L8

**Statement of Live Birth**  
 Form 2 Vital Statistics Act 1990

This is a copy of the permanent legal record created electronically.

**SECTION A - CHILD'S INFORMATION**

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Surname (Last Name)<br>[REDACTED]                                      |   | Sex of Child<br>Male                                 |
| First Name<br>[REDACTED]   |   | Middle Name<br>[REDACTED]                            |
| Birth Date<br>Year: [REDACTED] Month: [REDACTED] Day: [REDACTED]       | Name of hospital or exact location where birth occurred<br>[REDACTED] |  |
| Place of Birth (City, town, village, township - by name)<br>[REDACTED] |   | Regional municipality, county or "MRC"<br>[REDACTED] |

**SECTION B - MOTHER'S INFORMATION**

|  |                   |   |                   |
|--|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Current Legal Surname (Last Name)<br>[REDACTED]                  |                   | <b>SECTION C - FATHER'S/OTHER PARENT'S INFORMATION</b>  |                   |
| Legal Surname at Birth ( Maiden Name)<br>[REDACTED]              |                   | Current Legal Surname (Last Name)<br>[REDACTED]   |                   |
| First and Middle Names<br>[REDACTED]                             |                   | First and Middle Names<br>[REDACTED]  |                   |
| Any Other Legal Surnames<br>[REDACTED]                           |                   | Legal Surname in Birth<br>[REDACTED]  |                   |
| Ethnicity (Cultural/Religious)<br>[REDACTED]                     |                   | Any Other Legal Surnames<br>[REDACTED]  |                   |
| Birthplace (Province/Country)<br>[REDACTED]                      |                   | Birthplace (Province/Country)<br>[REDACTED]   |                   |
| Birth Date<br>Year: [REDACTED] Month: [REDACTED] Day: [REDACTED] | Age<br>[REDACTED] | Birth Date<br>Year: [REDACTED] Month: [REDACTED] Day: [REDACTED]  | Age<br>[REDACTED] |
| Mother's Occupation<br>[REDACTED]                                |                   | Mortgage of Mother's<br>[REDACTED]  |                   |
| [REDACTED]   |                   | Married <input type="checkbox"/> Common Law <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> |                   |

**SECTION D - BIRTH INFORMATION**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Mother's Residence<br>[REDACTED]   |  | Postal Code<br>[REDACTED]  |
| Mother's Mailing Address if different from above<br>[REDACTED]                                 |  |  |
| Duration of pregnancy (in weeks)<br>38   | Total number of children ever born to this mother including this birth<br>[REDACTED] | Order of child at birth<br>[REDACTED]  |
|  | Of this Total, Number born live<br>[REDACTED]  | Kind of Birth<br>Single <input type="checkbox"/> Twin <input type="checkbox"/> Triplet <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Name of Attendant at Birth<br>[REDACTED]   |  | If multiple birth, Sex child was born<br>[REDACTED]  |
| Physician <input type="checkbox"/> Midwife <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: [REDACTED] |  |  |

**SECTION E - CERTIFICATION**

Certification of whether the child's surname is not one of the parent's surnames or combination of those names, but is chosen in accordance with the child's cultural, ethnic, or religious heritage.

Cultural Heritage     Religious Heritage     Ethnic Heritage

Name(s) of person(s) who certified that the information provided for this registration is true and correct and (if the person(s) has been) aware that it is required to do so (provide false information for this registration):  
 Certified electronically by: [REDACTED]    Date Certified: Year: [REDACTED] Month: [REDACTED] Day: [REDACTED]


Indication of whether or not all persons on this birth have agreed to the child's surname (last name):  
 Yes  No 
 Certified electronically by: [REDACTED]    Date Certified: Year: [REDACTED] Month: [REDACTED] Day: [REDACTED]

**SECTION F - OFFICE USE ONLY**


For office use only

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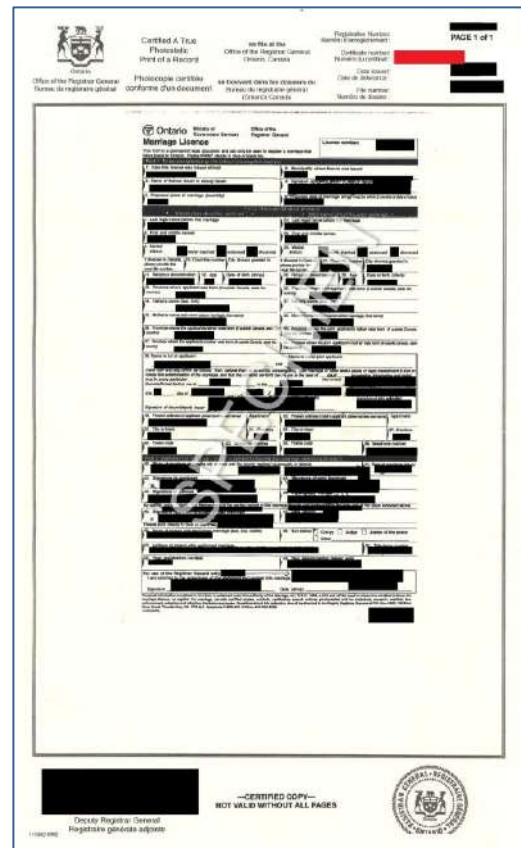
  
 Deputy Registrar General  
 Registrars générale adjointe  
13105(1/200)

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NOT VALID WITHOUT ALL PAGES



**Marriage certificate** - certificate of marriage proving a person is married.

Must be certified with *apostille* as described in [Section 6a](#) and translated into Croatian by a certified translator.



**Criminal record check – must NOT be older than 6 months at the time of the submission of the application and must be translated into Croatian by a certified translator.**

For example:

**7. CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia in Mississauga**  
 302 - 198 Dundas Street E, L4Y 2B8 Mississauga, Ontario  
 Tel: +1 (905) 277 9051  
 E-mail: [genmiss@mvep.hr](mailto:genmiss@mvep.hr)  
 Web: <https://mvep.gov.hr/mississauga>

**Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Ottawa**  
 229 Chapel Street, K1N 7Y6 Ottawa, Ontario  
 Tel: + 1 (613) 562 7824  
 E-mail: [con.ottawa@mvep.hr](mailto:con.ottawa@mvep.hr)  
 Web: <http://ca.mvep.hr/>

*NOTE: Any citizen of the Republic of Croatia who also has foreign citizenship(s) is considered exclusively a Croatian citizen by Government bodies of the Republic of Croatia.*