

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST & INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE NOTE

- Documents must be sent via certified mail with tracking and without return receipt.
- Applications must be sent by the day of the scheduled appointment and the postmark date must be clearly visible on the envelope.
- The citizenship office will send payment receipt to your email address within 2/3 weeks upon arrival to our office. Requests for confirmation that the application was received will only be responded to if 3 weeks have passed from shipment date - please attach a screenshot of the tracking information for your package or we will be unable to respond.
- **PLEASE USE FULL (MAIDEN) NAME (INCLUDING MIDDLE NAME) ON ALL FORMS**

The Citizenship office may request additional documentation in order to determine your eligibility. Applications must include full documentation as listed below; starting with the most recent ancestor born in Italy and ending with the applicant and any underage children. You must include all Vital Records and Proof of Naturalization/No Naturalization. Please see our website for further information on eligibility.

Vital Records

Documents must be submitted starting from the most recent ancestor and ending with the Applicant.

- Applicants may cite relatives' documents (ancestor and ascendants) **only** if that application was submitted to Consulate General of Italy in Los Angeles
- Births outside of a marriage must be presented with the long form certificate along with an Acknowledgement of Paternity, legalized by the Apostille and accompanied by an Italian translation on plain paper
- In-line relatives' vital records must be **certified originals, long form, legalized by the Apostille & accompanied by an Italian translation on plain paper. Long form certificates must be requested & are not the standard issued certificate.**
- Long Form Birth Certificates contain parent's full name, date and place of birth
- Long Form Marriage Certificates contain parent's full name, date and place of birth and number of previous marriage (or legal status before marriage)
- Applicants must submit all decrees issued by a Court (such as Decree of Change of Name, Decree of Change of Gender, Decree of Adoption, Decree of Divorce, etc.) which must be legalized by the Apostille and accompanied by a translation into Italian.

Naturalization / Non-Naturalization Documents (see TABLE 1)

The Italian born ancestor must have been an Italian citizen at the time birth of their child in order to pass on Italian citizenship. Italian citizenship was exclusive until 15 August 1992; therefore, the acquisition of any non-Italian citizenship meant the automatic renunciation of one's Italian citizenship. If the relative resided outside the United States, you must provide proof of naturalization/non-naturalization as instructed by the Italian Embassy's website in that country/jurisdiction.

Name Discrepancies

Applicants' names and parents' names must appear on all documents as they appear on their respective birth certificates. Any discrepancies on these documents must be amended. The citizenship office will determine if anglicized name changes or simple variations on other relatives' documents will be accepted. A few discrepancies may be accepted. If needed, we reserve the right to ask for additional documentation and request the appropriate amendments.

Documents Issued Outside the United States

Please note that prior to your appointment, any document issued in a country different from Italy or the United States which is part of your application must be authenticated, translated, and legalized in the country of origin. Our recommendation is to get in touch with the Italian Consulate or Embassy in the country where the certificate was issued to learn about their specific authentication process.

Court Documents (including divorces)

All Documents issued by a court must be legalized by the Apostille and accompanied by an Italian translation.

FAST FACTS

- Italian Citizenship is based on the principle of “**jus sanguinis**”, meaning that your father, your mother or your ancestor is or was an Italian citizen. In fact, Italian citizenship can be passed through generations without any limit unless there was an interruption in the line of descent due to naturalization or renunciation.
- If your ancestor became a **naturalized U.S. citizen before June 14, 1912** you are not entitled to Italian citizenship if the child of that ancestor was a minor on the date of his/her father’s naturalization, even if he/she was born before your Italian ancestor's naturalization.
- A person born **before January 1st, 1948** can claim Italian citizenship only from his/her father, who was not a naturalized citizen of another country before his child’s birth.
- A woman can transfer citizenship only to her children born **after January 1st, 1948**, if she was not a naturalized citizen of another country before her child’s birth.
- From an Italian citizen mother to a child born **before January 1st, 1948**: applicants who fall into this category will have to appeal directly in Italy to an Italian civil court to obtain recognition of citizenship.
- An Italian citizen who acquired a foreign citizenship **before August 16, 1992** automatically lost his/her citizenship according to art. 8 of the law 555/1912.
- The acquisition of a foreign citizenship by an Italian citizen on or **after August 16, 1992** does not cause the loss of his/her Italian citizenship.

PLEASE CHECK THE BOXES OF THE DOCUMENTS WHICH YOU WILL BE PROVIDING

CATEGORY 9

Your father was born in the United States or in another foreign country; your paternal grandfather was born in the United States or in another foreign country; your paternal great-grandfather was born in Italy and was an Italian citizen at the time of your paternal grandfather's birth.

APPLICANT'S FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

- 1) **ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP REQUEST FORM CAT. 3 - 11** (Your signature must be notarized);
 FORM 2 (Your signature must be notarized);
- 2) If you were born an **AMERICAN CITIZEN**:
 VALID AMERICAN PASSPORT (photocopy);
If you became a **U.S. CITIZEN BY NATURALIZATION**:
 VALID AMERICAN PASSPORT (photocopy);
 CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION (photocopy);
If you are **not a U.S. CITIZEN**:
 VALID PASSPORT (photocopy);
 ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD (green card, Permanent Resident Card, USCIS form I-551) (photocopy);
- 3) **VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE** or **STATE ID** issued by California, Arizona, Nevada or New Mexico (photocopy);
- 4) **PROOF OF RESIDENCY** (utility bill: electricity, water, gas, landline bill, bank statement, or tax statement);
- 5) **CERTIFIED COPY OF YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE** – (in "full form" or "long form") **it must be issued within 24 months of the date of submission of your documents to our office**;
 TRANSLATION of the certificate into Italian;
 "APOSTILLE" (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);
- 6) **PAYMENT: money order or cashier's check** (no personal checks) payable to "Italian Consulate of Los Angeles". This fee must be paid in USD. **See this link for the updated amount: DOMANDA DI RICONOSCIMENTO CITTADINANZA (Art. 07b)** (fee is subject to change every 3 months)
- 7) **Family Tree 2** (Italian Great-Grandparent)

ANCESTORS' DOCUMENTATION

The applicant must provide the following vital records IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER (beginning from the most recent ancestor born in Italy)

- 8) YOUR PATERNAL **GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE** in “**FORMATO INTERNAZIONALE**” or in “**ESTRATTO PER RIASSUNTO**”- **with annotations**- of the ancestor born in Italy - issued by the Municipality in Italy within the 24 months before your appointment date (NO Apostille needed). The Italian certificates must be requested by the applicant from the Comune in Italy. Find the request form [here](#).
- 9) HIS SPOUSE'S **BIRTH CERTIFICATE** (simple copy – No Apostille or translation needed);
- 10) YOUR **GREAT-GRANDPARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE**:
- If the **marriage took place in Italy** you have to request:
- ORIGINAL MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE issued by the Italian Comune where the marriage took place (NO Apostille needed). Find the request form [here](#).
- If it **took place outside Italy** you must obtain:
- CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (in "full form" or "long form");
- TRANSLATION of the certificate into Italian;
- "APOSTILLE" (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);
- If it **took place in Nevada or New Mexico** you must obtain:
- CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (in "full form" or "long form");
- CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR MARRIAGE LICENSE;
- TRANSLATION of both the certificate and license into Italian;
- "APOSTILLE" of both the certificate and license (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);
- 11) YOUR PATERNAL **GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S NATURALIZATION OR NON-NATURALIZATION DOCUMENTS (SEE TABLE 1)**:
- 12) YOUR PATERNAL **GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S DEATH CERTIFICATE (if applicable)**:
- CERTIFIED COPY OF HIS/HER DEATH CERTIFICATE (in "full form" or "long form");
- TRANSLATION of the certificate into Italian;
- "APOSTILLE" (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);

TABLE 1

If your great-grandfather was naturalized a U.S. citizen

- CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION (NO Apostille or translation needed)

AND/OR

- CERTIFIED COPY OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION, PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION, and OATH OF ALLEGIANCE (which is an official document bearing the red ribbon and gold seal of the National Archives - NARA) (NO Apostille or translation needed);

If your great-grandfather is still alive and is NOT an American citizen

- his **Italian passport**

AND/OR

- current **U.S. permanent resident card** ("green card").

If your great-grandfather was NEVER naturalized a US citizen

- LETTER OF NO RECORD OF NATURALIZATION/PERSON – aliases included - issued by **USCIS** (NO Apostille or translation needed) (**original, not a photocopy**, and with the Office Seal);

AND

- LETTER OF NO RECORD OF NATURALIZATION/PERSON – aliases included - issued by **NARA** (NO Apostille or translation needed) (**original, not a photocopy**, and with the Office Seal);

And one of the following:

- Copy of **ITALIAN PASSPORT** and/or **US GREEN CARD** dated **after** applicant's birth (NO Apostille or translation needed);
- Documentation from **USCIS/NARA** showing alien status after applicant's birth (NO Apostille or translation needed) (**original, not a photocopy**, and with the Office Seal);
- THE FIRST U.S. CENSUS** dated after **THE BIRTH OF THE FIRST IN-LINE ANCESTOR BORN OUTSIDE OF ITALY** (or **CHILD OF THE ITALIAN ANCESTOR**) (NO Apostille or translation needed) (**Certified Copy, not a photocopy**);

If your great-grandfather IMMIGRATED to a country OTHER than the U.S.:

- Proof of **NATURALIZATION** or **NO NATURALIZATION** through pertinent documentation issued by the competent authority of the country with **APOSTILLE** and **TRANSLATION** into Italian;
N.B. Documents issued in countries other than the U.S. must comply with the local regulations on the legalization of documents, they must be translated into Italian and the translation must be certified by the Italian Consulate/Embassy in the country where the documents were issued. For information on how a document should be legalized in its country of origin, you can check the website of the competent Italian Consulate/Embassy (A list of all Italian Consulate/Embassies abroad is available at: www.esteri.it/it);

List of the Offices you can contact:

1. The **USCIS** in Washington D.C. (www.uscis.gov) This Office can provide a Certificate of Naturalization or a certification of nonexistence of a specific record.
2. The **National Archives in Washington, DC** (www.archives.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” 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 letter stating it.
3. **County Court** in which the ancestor resided and in which his/her child was born. It can also provide the Certificate of Naturalization.
4. The **USCIS Genealogy Program**, in Washington, DC (www.uscis.gov/records/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 received citizenship.
5. The **Regional Office of the National Archives**. This office keeps Federal documents related to the States in their area of jurisdiction. You can also obtain a certified copy of your ancestor’s “petition for naturalization” and “oath of allegiance”. Documents from NARA must be certified copies, bearing the red ribbon and gold seal of NARA. If the search shows NO RECORD, NARA can issue the alien registration card.
6. **Census record**. It may provide additional information relevant to your case even if based on the information provided by the individual: Immigration Records, Naturalization Records, Ship Passenger Lists, Military records, the U.S. Passport applications, Voter List Records and others (www.census.gov). Ask for the first U.S. Census dated after the birth of the Italian-born ascendant’s child.

SUMMARY

| <u>Naturalization</u> | <u>Non-Naturalization</u> |
|---|---|
| <u>Naturalization Certificate: Notarized Copy (NO Translation)</u> | <u>USCIS: No Record of Naturalization</u> |
| <u>Or</u> | <u>And</u> |
| <u>Oath of Allegiance: Notarized Copy (NO Translation)</u> | <u>NARA: No Record of Naturalization</u> |
| <u>Or</u> | <u>And one of the following</u> |
| <u>Green Card issued after birth date of next in line/applicant: Notarized Copy</u> | <u>Census record - dated after birth of next in line relative</u> |
| | <u>Italian Passport/Green Card</u> |
| | <u>Declaration of Intention / Petition for Naturalization</u> |
| | <u>Mod. AR-2 (if ancestor deceased after Dec. 31, 1940)</u> |

PATERNAL GRANDFATHER'S DOCUMENTATION

- 13) **FORM 3** if your grandfather is alive, along with a photocopy of his legal I.D. (His signature must be notarized);
- FORM 4** if your grandfather is deceased (Your signature must be notarized);
- 14) CERTIFIED COPY OF YOUR **GRANDFATHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE** (in "full form" or "long form");
- TRANSLATION of the certificate into Italian;
- "APOSTILLE" (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);
- 15) YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S **BIRTH CERTIFICATE** (simple copy – No Apostille or translation needed);
- 16) **YOUR GRANDPARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE:**
- CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (in "full form" or "long form");
- TRANSLATION of the certificate into Italian;
- "APOSTILLE" (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);
- If it **took place in Nevada or New Mexico** you must obtain:
- CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (in "full form" or "long form");
- CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR MARRIAGE LICENSE;
- TRANSLATION of both the certificate and license into Italian;
- "APOSTILLE" of both the certificate and license (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);
- 17) YOUR GRANDFATHER'S **DEATH CERTIFICATE (if applicable)** (simple copy – No Apostille or translation needed);

FATHER'S DOCUMENTATION

- 18) **FORM 3** if your father is alive, along with a photocopy of his legal I.D. (His signature must be notarized);
 FORM 4 if your father is deceased (Your signature must be notarized);
- 19) CERTIFIED COPY OF YOUR **FATHER'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE** (in "full form" or "long form");
 TRANSLATION of the certificate into Italian;
 "APOSTILLE" (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);
- 20) YOUR MOTHER'S **BIRTH CERTIFICATE** (simple copy – No Apostille or translation needed);
- 21) **YOUR PARENTS' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE:**
 CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (in "full form" or "long form");
 TRANSLATION of the certificate into Italian;
 "APOSTILLE" (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);
- If it took place in Nevada or New Mexico you must obtain:
 CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (in "full form" or "long form");
 CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR MARRIAGE LICENSE;
 TRANSLATION of both the certificate and license into Italian;
 "APOSTILLE" of both the certificate and license (from the Secretary of State of the state in which the certificate was issued);
- 22) YOUR FATHER'S **DEATH CERTIFICATE (if applicable)** (simple copy – No Apostille or translation needed);

Required Documents – Vital Records & Divorces

Applicants must register all Vital Records Documents

Vital Records Issued by Italian Authorities (for events which took place in Italy)

In-Line Relatives

- Birth Certificate: Original Extended Certified Copy issued by the Comune with names of parents
- Marriage Certificate: Original Extended Certified Copy issued by the Comune with names of parents and any annotations of divorces
- Death Certificate: Original Extended Certified Copy issued by the Comune with names of parents

Out-of-Line Relatives if born in Italy

- Spouse's Birth Certificate: Photocopy of Certificate issued by Comune in Italy
- Spouse's Death Certificate: Photocopy of Certificate issued by Comune in Italy

Vital Records Issued by Non-Italian Authorities

In-Line Relatives

- Birth Certificate: Long-Form Original legalized by the Apostille; Translation of **Document Only**
- Marriage Certificate: Long-Form Original legalized by the Apostille; Translation of **Document Only**
- Death Certificate: Long-Form Original legalized by the Apostille; Translation of **Document Only**

Out-of-Line Relatives

- Spouse's Birth Certificate: **Photocopy** of Certificate

Divorces

For Applicants' Parents- if child is of a 2nd or subsequent marriage

- Divorce Sentence (not dissolution of marriage): Certified Original legalized by the Apostille & Translation of the entire Sentence
- Certificate of No-Appeal: Certified Original legalized by the Apostille & Translation of the Certificate

For ancestors preceding the Applicant's Parents (i.e. Grandparents or older)- if child is of a 2nd or subsequent marriage

- Divorce Decree/Certificate of Dissolution: Certified Original legalized by the Apostille; Translation of Document only

Applicant's Vital Record Documentation:

MINOR CHILDREN'S BIRTH:

- [Request Form](#) to register applicant's minor child in Italy
- Birth Certificate: Long-Form Original legalized by the Apostille; Translation of **Document Only**

MARRIAGE:

- [Request Form](#) to register applicant's marriage in Italy
- Marriage Certificate: Long-Form Original legalized by the Apostille; Translation of **Document Only**

DIVORCE

- [Request Form](#) to register applicant's divorce in Italy
- Entire certified copy of Final Judgment of Dissolution of Marriage: Certified Original legalized by the Apostille & Translation of **the entire Sentence Only**
- "Certificate of fact" also called "Certificate of the Clerk" or "Certificate of Non-Appeal" from the Superior Court that issued the Final Divorce Sentence in order to establish that no appeal or reopening of the case has been filed during the six months after the final divorce: Certified Original legalized by the Apostille & Translation of the **Certificate only**

Please title and organize each packet in the manner and order seen below:

Packet 1 – Forms, Identification, and Money Order

- Money Order/Cashier's Check
- "Request for Italian Citizenship" Form
- Form 2
- Family Tree
- Vital Records Docs Issued by local authorities (Birth, Marriage(s), Divorce(s), etc.)
- Copy of Passport and Copy of Government-Issued ID
- Copy of Green Card / Visa in Non-U.S. Passport (if applicable)
- Copy of Utility Bill/Bank Statement/Tax Statement (Page with Name and Address)
- Vital Records of any underage children
- Copy of Passport for any underage children

Packet 2 – Documents for Last Relative Born in Italy

- Vital Records Issued from Italy
- Proof of Naturalization (dated before birth of next-in-line) or Non-Naturalization
- Vital Records Issued from local authorities

Packet 3 – Documents for Next in Line Relative

- Form 3 (if living) or Form 4 (if deceased) for next in line relative
- Vital Records Issued from local authorities
- **Every relative between the most recent Ancestor born in Italy and Applicant must have a separate packet**

***IMPORTANT*: IN ORDER TO REDUCE WASTE AND PROCESS APPLICATIONS FASTER, WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU DO NOT USE BINDERS, PLASTIC FOLDERS, SHEET PROTECTORS, OR ANY OTHER REUSABLE ORGANIZATION SUPPLIES. USE ONLY PAPER MANILA ENVELOPES OR FOLDERS. PAPERCLIPS AND BINDERCLIPS CAN BE USED IF NECESSARY.**

How to Prepare the Envelope:

1. Sender
 - a. Please Put **Full (Maiden) Name**, as it appears on the applicant's birth certificate in the sender portion of the envelope
 - b. **Place date of appointment at the bottom**
2. Recipient
CONSULATE GENERAL OF ITALY
CITIZENSHIP DEPARTMENT
1900 Avenue of The Stars, Suite 1250
Los Angeles, CA 90067
3. **Make sure the postmark is clearly visible under the stamp**

To be signed for acknowledgement and acceptance