



INFORMATION NOTE

2018

Naturalization of descendants of Sephardic Jews in Portugal

Portuguese nationality by naturalization may be granted to the descendants of Portuguese Sephardic Jews who demonstrate the existence of a tradition of belonging to a Sephardic community of Portuguese origin and who meet certain requirements.

4 STEPS

Step 1

Verification of satisfaction of basic requirements;

Step 2

Obtain a certificate issued by the Portuguese Jewish Community;

Step 3

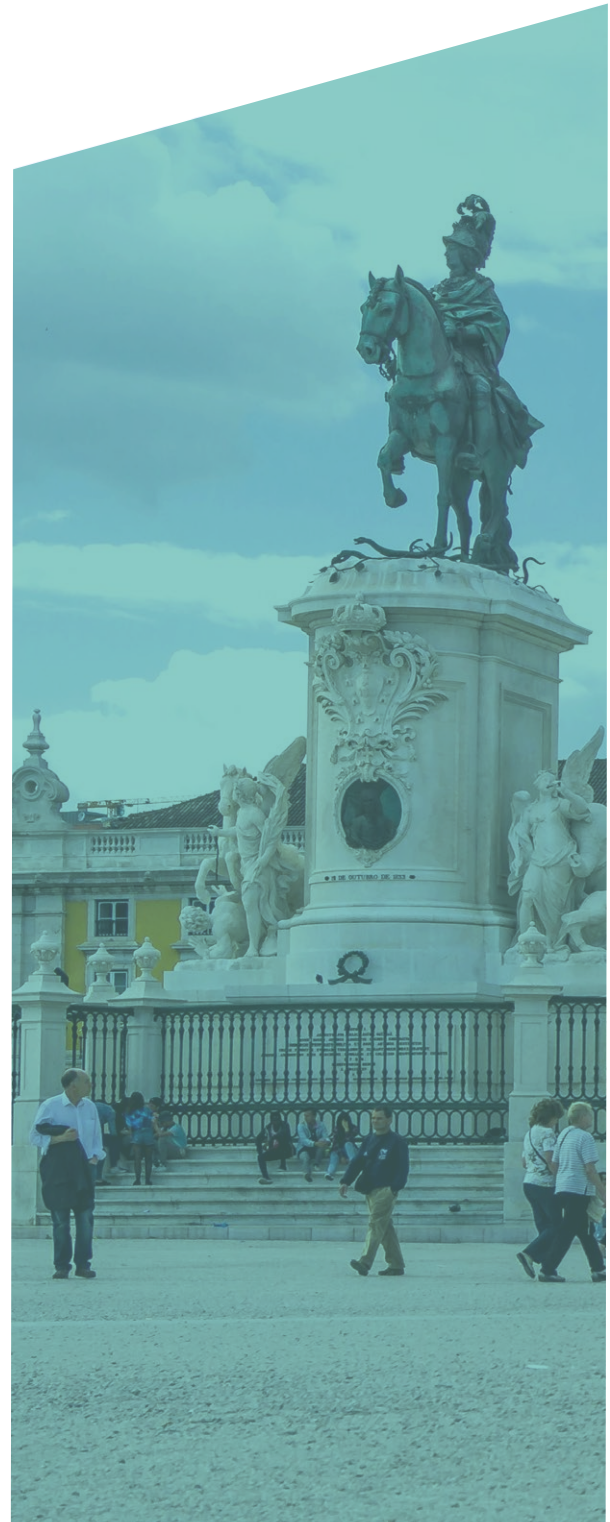
Submit a request for Portuguese nationality through naturalization to the competent authority;

Step 4

Obtain a Portuguese Identification Document, after approval of the request for nationality;

1. REQUIREMENTS

// Majority or emancipation, under Portuguese law;



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// Not having been convicted for the practice of a crime punishable under Portuguese Law by an imprisonment sentence equal to or greater than three years;

// Proven tradition of belonging to a Sephardic community of Portuguese origin (family surnames, family language, direct descendant or family relationship in the collateral line of a common parent from the Sephardic community of Portuguese origin;

2. OBTAINING A PORTUGUESE JEWISH COMMUNITY CERTIFICATE

The applicant for Portuguese nationality must first obtain a certificate from the Portuguese Jewish Community which attests to his/her ties to a Sephardic Jewish Community of Portuguese origin.

The obtaining of this certificate is subject to the presentation before the Jewish Community of the following documents:

// **Copy of passport;**

// **Birth certificate** or similar document that contains the date and place of birth of the applicant and his/her affiliation;

// **Proof of Residence** (which will serve to determine the nearest Orthodox Rabbinate).

The following documents constitute Proof of Residence: supply accounts (water, electricity, gas, telecommunications); official documents containing the applicant's address: lease agreement; lending agreement, among others.

// **Proof of Judaism:** the applicant must be Jewish according to Halacha or have at least one parent who is Jewish, conditions without which it is not possible to allege a traditional emotional and historical connection to the Sephardic community.

The following documents constitute Proof of Judaism: certificate of a Chief Rabbi; letter from an Orthodox Rabbi recognized by organizations with Halacha credibility; affiliation in the Orthodox Community, among others.

// **Evidence of connection to a Sephardic Community of Portuguese origin.**

Evidence of connection can be demonstrated through:
– Family surnames / names - upon presentation of a document containing (i) the names of the parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and other ascendants in a direct line; (ii) the family tree;

– Places through which the applicant's family has passed before settling in a place - by means of any document containing such information, which may even be a report provided by the applicant with the description of the family trajectory before settling in one place;

– Ladino language - through, for example, the presentation of a copy of documents written in Ladino, belonging to the family of the applicant;

– Written description of the family customs and traditions of the applicant, inherited from the Sephardic Community of Portuguese origin.

The request for the issuance of a certificate by the Jewish Community should be addressed to the Jewish Community of Oporto or Lisbon and be accompanied by copies of all the documents referred to above. Its submission should preferably be by electronic mail.

3. DOCUMENTATION TO BE PRESENTED IN THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OFFICE

// **Application for Portuguese nationality by naturalization;**

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// **Passport;**

// **Birth registration certificate;**

// **Criminal record certificates** - issued by the relevant Portuguese authorities of the country of birth and nationality, as well as of the countries where he/she was and is resident, which must be authenticated when issued by foreign authorities;

// **Jewish Community Certificate**, with religious legal person status, settled in Portugal, in accordance with the law, attesting to the tradition of belonging to a Sephardic community of Portuguese origin, embodied, namely, in the applicant's surname, family language, genealogy and family memory;

// **Proof of residence;**

// **Payment of a fee.**

The documents must be written or translated into Portuguese and, if issued by foreign entities, must be duly certified/authenticating, apostilled or consularized.

4. OBTAINING A PORTUGUESE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT

After the approval of the application for nationality by naturalization by the competent authorities, the respective birth seat will be issued, which will serve as the basis for obtaining the Portuguese citizen's card or passport, with the consulate or at the Central Registry Office.

For more information please contact:

/ Department of Emigration:

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