



Children and their rights to **BRITISH CITIZENSHIP**

Information for parents and carers
and young people

PRCBC November 2022 (updated April 2025)

13
YEARS
PRCBC
2012-2025

Not everyone born in the UK has British citizenship automatically. From 1 January 1983, British nationality law changed so that it is not enough to be born in the UK to have British citizenship. This booklet explains who is a British citizen at birth and the rights of children who are not born with that citizenship to be registered as British citizens.

Contents

Foreword	5
General points	6
Is a child born in the UK a British citizen?	8
When is a child born in the UK entitled to registration as a British citizen?	10
Flow chart: Children born in the UK	13
Is a child born outside the UK a British citizen?	14
When is a child born outside the UK entitled to registration as a British citizen?	15
Can a child be registered as a British citizen in other circumstances?	18
Flow chart: Children born outside the UK	21
Glossary	22

Please note: The information set out here does not cover all the circumstances in which a child is or may become a British citizen. Its contents do not constitute legal advice and are provided for general information only. More or updated information may be available from the UKVI website: www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/citizenship

Some cases may be complex and need detailed evidence. This may include expert evidence. It is therefore very important to get advice from a citizenship law specialist.

An explanation of some of the legal words used in this booklet is given in the glossary at the end.

Being a British citizen means the law says that the UK is a part of you and you are a part of it.

It makes clear to everyone that the UK is your home. You have the right to live here and belong here. And if you go somewhere else, you are free to come back.

This booklet is about whether you are a British citizen or have a right to become a British citizen. We hope it helps you, your parent or carer to understand and claim your British citizenship right.

Carol Bohmer, Chair of PRCBC

Many of us have little need to reflect on how important the right to a nationality is. Our citizenship of the place to which we belong is recognised automatically – often at our birth.

But not all of us are so fortunate. In the UK, thousands of children grow up with rights to British citizenship but needing to act on those rights to be registered as citizens. It is vital they should do so.

For that to happen, greater awareness is needed of British citizenship rights – who is born a citizen and who needs and has a right to be registered as a citizen.

This booklet is much needed. The UK cannot be a place of true equality while so many of its children continue growing up deprived of its citizenship.

Sacha Deshmukh, Chief executive, Amnesty International UK

Foreword

by Benjamin Zephaniah

– author, poet and musician (1959-2023)

Everyone in the world has the human right to a nationality. Wherever we go, whatever we do, we should all belong somewhere. I can't over-emphasise how crucial this is. Having a nationality is the key that opens the door to all your other rights, like further education, getting a driving licence, a passport, travelling abroad, having a career, or even competing at the Olympic games.

Being British is part of how you see yourself when you've grown up here. It's about the music you listen to, the friends you have, it's about feeling safe, and it's part of your identity and sense of belonging in the UK. But being a British citizen – having a British nationality – is something that's controlled by the law, and we all know that the law is not an easy thing to navigate. On top of that,

the British Home Office has blocked access to citizenship rights for decades. This is clearly unjust and wrong. I find it unacceptable that there are tens of thousands of children and young people who are entitled to British citizenship but don't have it. A lack of humanity and compassion from people with power now means that you may have been born in the UK and grown up here, but still you've not been able to register for your citizenship.

If you're one of these many thousands, please don't feel isolated. Trust me when I tell you that you're not alone. Thanks to the work of PRCBC and others, (who do have compassion), you can get support. That's where this booklet comes in: it will help you claim your rights. In the last decade, thousands of children have been able to register as British citizens, partly because of this booklet and better awareness and changes in the law.

Go on, you can do it. Take advantage of this information. Use it to register your right to be a British citizen. Tell your friends and family. So, reader take my advice, please act now to claim your rights.

Benjamin Zephaniah generously wrote this foreword in 2022, a few months before he passed away. At PRCBC, we are forever grateful to him.



© Benjamin Zephaniah

General points

Application Fees

Most Home Office nationality (including passport) fees are non-refundable: they will not be returned if the application is refused.

Home Office fees may change at short notice.

There is no fee for a looked after child to apply to be registered as a British citizen.

Applications

An application for citizenship will not protect a child from being or becoming an overstayer while the application remains outstanding. If a child is without leave or has leave that is due to expire, advice may be sought from an immigration law specialist.

It is important to keep a full copy of any passport or registration application that is submitted. If posting the application, this should be done by secure post (such as recorded or special delivery).

Best interests

The Home Office must by law consider the best interests of the child when deciding on any child's registration or passport application.

Citizenship ceremony

A person who is 18 years old or over is normally required to attend a citizenship ceremony to be registered or naturalised as a British citizen. There is a fee for this.

Consent

Consent of a child's parents is required for registration in some circumstances.

For example, as indicated in this booklet, it is sometimes a legal requirement that consent is given. Home Office policy and practice is to require consent in other circumstances too.

Dual nationality

The UK permits dual nationality. This means that a British citizen does not lose their British citizenship if taking the nationality of other countries.

However, some countries do not permit dual nationality so becoming a British citizen could mean that the person loses their original nationality. It is necessary to check this with the Embassy or High Commission of the country of the person's original nationality to find out.

Father

Where a person's rights to British citizenship depend on their father (i.e., whether the father is or was British, settled or a member of HM Armed Forces), the following information is relevant.

Before 1 July 2006, children whose biological parents were not married were treated as without a father.

From 1 July 2006, the biological father of a child born to a single mother is recognised as the child's father. If the mother is married to someone other than the child's biological father, that person is treated as the father.

As explained in the relevant scenarios set out in this booklet, rights to be registered

as a British citizen have been introduced to address the citizenship rights of people whose biological fathers were not married to their mothers.

In some circumstances, DNA evidence may be needed to prove someone is the biological father. In other circumstances, it may be possible to obtain a declaration of parentage. Advice from a family law specialist may be needed.

Fee waiver

A child can request a waiver of the registration fee. A fee waiver will only be granted if the Home Office is satisfied the fee is not affordable. The Home Office must have regard to the child's best interests.

A request for a fee waiver may be made by post or online. There is a long and complex form for requesting a waiver, and it requires detailed financial evidence to be provided.

Postal waiver requests: the registration application must be made at the same time as the fee waiver request.

Online waiver requests: the registration application must be made online within a set period if the waiver is granted.

Legal advice

Due to the complexity of British nationality law, it is very important to get advice from a citizenship law specialist.

The Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens (PRCBC) provides further information on its website (prcbc.org) and provides advice and assistance to a small

number of children and young adults with complex citizenship cases.

Some Citizens Advice Bureaux, law centres, other advice agencies or law firms may have a citizenship law specialist.

Legal Aid

Unless the child is a separated child, there is generally no legal aid for advice and assistance in applying for citizenship or a passport. However, in some cases it may be possible to apply for exceptional case funding (ECF) to the Legal Aid Agency (LAA).

Legal aid may be available for a judicial review of a refusal by the Home Office or HM Passport Office, depending on the child's financial means and the strength of the case.

Referees

Two referees are generally required to confirm they have known the child applying to be registered for at least three years.

The usual expectation is that at least one of the referees should be a British citizen and at least one should be a professional person or over the age of 25.

Review of refusal of registration

It is possible to ask the Home Office to review its decision to refuse registration of British citizenship. There is a fee, which will be refunded if the review is successful. If the review is unsuccessful, it may sometimes be possible to apply to the courts for a judicial review of the refusal.

Is a child born in the UK a British citizen?



YES

A child born in the UK is automatically born a British citizen if at the time of the child's birth either the mother or father is:

- a British citizen themselves; or
- settled in the UK; or
- (if born after 12 January 2010) a serving member of HM Armed Forces.

If, at the birth of a child, the mother is not married to the biological father (whether because she is single or married to someone else), this can affect who is treated as the father of the child for the purposes of British citizenship. Please see 'General points' section on fathers.

An application can be made to HM Passport Office for a British passport for the child. It will be necessary to submit the child's full birth certificate and proof of the parent(s)' British citizenship or settled status or membership of HM Armed Forces at the time of the birth.

A new-born child, who is found abandoned in the UK, will be presumed to be a British citizen unless it is proved that the child was not born in the UK to a British or settled parent.

A child who is adopted by a parent or parents is automatically made a British citizen at the date of the adoption if that adoption is by order of a UK court and one of the parents is a British citizen.

A child who is adopted by a parent or parents is automatically made a British citizen at the date of the adoption if that adoption is authorised by the law of another country in which the Hague Convention is in force. The adoption must be certified to show it fulfils the requirements of that Convention. The parents (or the parent if there is only one adopter) must be resident in the UK and one of them must be a British citizen.

A child born in the UK after 30 June 2021 to a European Union (EU) citizen mother or father, who on that date did not have but was eligible for settled status under the EU settlement scheme, will automatically become a British citizen on the date the parent is granted settled status under that scheme.



NO

A child born in the UK is not automatically born a British citizen if at the time of the birth neither the mother nor father were British citizens or settled (unless the child is born after 12 January 2010 to a mother or father who is a serving member of HM Armed Forces).



BUT

There are ways in which a child can register to become a British citizen.



When is a child born in the UK entitled to registration as a British citizen?

Scenario One

The child's parent becomes British, settled, or joins HM Armed Forces

A child born in the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

- the child's mother or father becomes a British citizen or settled or, if the child was born after 12 January 2010, joins HM Armed Forces; and
- if the child is aged 10 or over, the Home Office is satisfied that the child is of good character.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. The child's full birth certificate and proof the parent has been granted settled status or British citizenship or become a member of HM Armed Forces will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the child becomes an adult.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.

Scenario Two

The child lives in the UK for the first 10 years of their life

A person born in the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

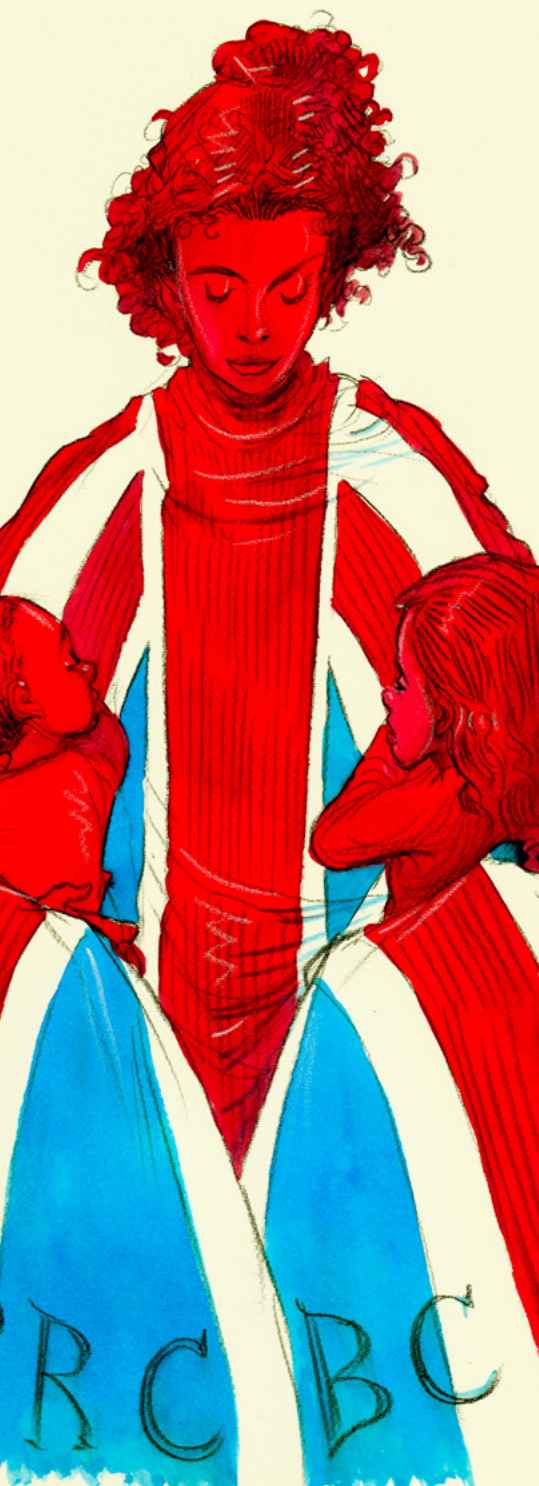
- the person lives here up to the age of 10, with no gaps of more than 90 days in any year of their life (longer gaps may be permitted depending on the circumstances); and
- the Home Office is satisfied that the person is of good character.

This right continues into adulthood.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form T may be used. The person's full birth certificate and proof of their being in the UK through the first 10 years of their life will need to be sent to the Home Office.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless, in the case of a child, the fee is unaffordable, and a fee waiver is granted.





Scenario Three Stateless children

A person born in the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if they:

- were born stateless;
- are and have always remained stateless;
- have lived in the UK for the last five years (not being out of the country for more than 450 days in that five-year period) at the date of the application (longer gaps may be permitted depending on the circumstances); and
- are under the age of 22 years.

However, if the person is still a child, they must show they are not entitled to the citizenship of either of their parents or, if the child is so entitled, why it is not reasonable to expect them to acquire that other citizenship.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form S3 may be used. The person's full birth certificate and proof that the person satisfies all the above requirements will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the person turns 22.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless, in the case of a child, the fee is unaffordable, and a fee waiver is granted.

Scenario Four

People who would have been born a British citizen had their mother and their biological father been married

A person born in the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

- their mother and biological father were not married at the time of their birth; and
- their biological father was a British citizen or settled or, if the person was born after 12 January 2010, a serving member of HM Armed Forces at that time; and
- the person is not already a British citizen.

This right continues into adulthood.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form UKF may be used. Proof that the father is the person's biological father and was a British citizen or settled at the person's birth will need to be sent to the Home Office.

There is no Home Office registration fee.

Scenario Five

People who would have a right to be registered as a British citizen had their mother and their biological father been married

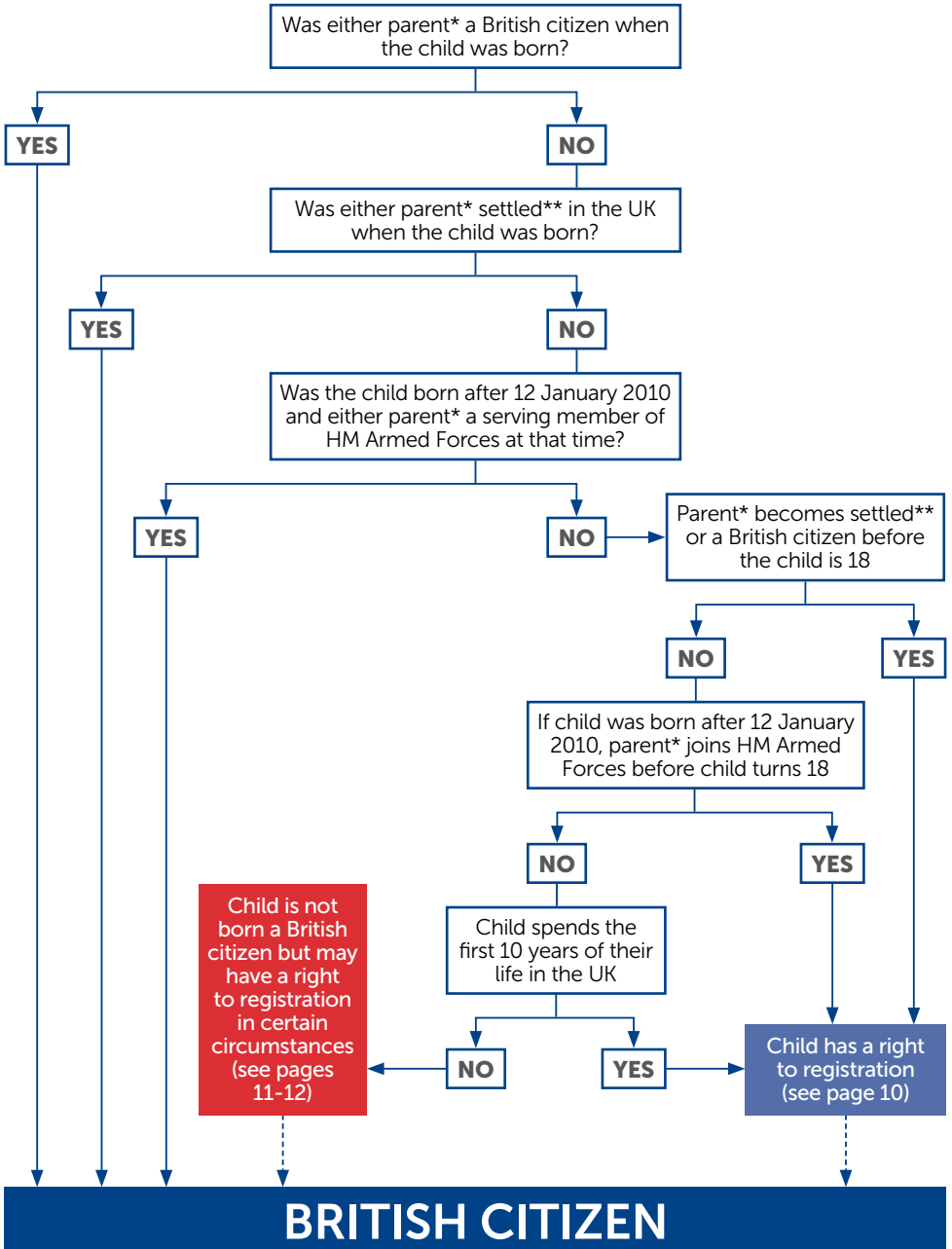
A child born in the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

- their mother and biological father were not married at the time of their birth; and
- their biological father becomes a British citizen or settled; and
- the child is not already a British citizen; and
- the Home Office is satisfied that the child is of good character.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. Proof that the father is the child's biological father, and the child satisfies all the above requirements will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the child becomes an adult.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.

Children born in the UK



*If parents are not married, see meaning of 'Father' on page 6

**See meaning of 'settled' on page 23

Is a child born outside the UK a British citizen?



YES

A child born outside the UK to a mother or father who was a British citizen at the time of the birth is automatically born a British citizen by descent. However, the mother or father must be a British citizen not by descent.

Some children born outside the UK to British parents in certain official roles outside the UK are automatically born British citizens even though the child's British citizen parent is British by descent.

If, at the birth of a child, the mother is not married to the biological father (whether because she is single or married to someone else), this can affect who is treated as the father of the child for the purposes of British citizenship. Please see 'General points' section on fathers.

An application can be made to HM Passport Office for a British passport for the child. It will be necessary to submit the child's full birth certificate and proof of the parent(s)' British citizenship at the time of the birth.

A child who is adopted by a parent or parents is automatically made a British citizen at the date of the adoption if that adoption is by order of a UK court and one of the parents is a British citizen.

A child who is adopted by a parent or parents is automatically made a British citizen at the date of the adoption if that adoption is authorised by the law of another country in which the Hague Convention is in force. The adoption must be certified to show it fulfils the requirements of that Convention. The parents (or the parent if there is only one adopter) must be resident in the UK and one of them must be a British citizen.



NO

A child born outside the UK is not automatically born a British citizen if neither the child's mother nor father was a British citizen at the time of the birth.

Even if the mother or father is a British citizen, this will not automatically make the child a British citizen at birth if that parent is a British citizen by descent.

When is a child born outside the UK entitled to registration as a British citizen?

Scenario One

British parent has lived in the UK for three years or child was born stateless

A child born outside the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

- the child's mother or father was a British citizen by descent at the child's birth; and
- that parent's mother or father was a British citizen not by descent at the time of the parent's birth; and
- that same parent had lived in the UK for a period of 3 years at any time before the child was born (unless the child was born stateless) and during that period was not absent from the UK for more than 270 days; and
- if the child is aged 10 or over, the Home Office is satisfied that the child is of good character.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. The child's full birth certificate and proof that the child satisfies all the above requirements will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the child becomes an adult.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.

Scenario Two

Child and parents have lived in the UK for three years

A child born outside the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

- the child's mother or father was a British citizen by descent at the child's birth; and
- the child and both parents have been living in the UK for the three years leading up to the date of application and none of them was absent during that period for more than 270 days; and
- both parents consent; and
- if the child is aged 10 or over, the Home Office is satisfied that the child is of good character.

If the parents have legally separated or one of them has died, the requirements for parents to be living with the child in the UK can be met by just one parent.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. The child's full birth certificate and proof that the child satisfies all the above requirements will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the child becomes an adult.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.

Scenario Three

People who would have been born a British citizen had their mother and their biological father been married

A person born outside the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

- their mother and biological father were not married at the time of their birth; and
- their biological father was a British citizen not by descent; and
- the person is not already a British citizen.

This right continues into adulthood.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form UKF may be used. Proof that the father is the person's biological father and was a British citizen not by descent at the person's birth will need to be sent to the Home Office.

There is no Home Office registration fee.

Scenario Four

Children who would have a right to be registered as a British citizen had their mother and their biological father been married

A child born outside the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

- their mother and biological father were not married at the time of their birth; and
- they otherwise meet all the requirements of scenarios one or two; and
- the child is not already a British citizen.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. Proof that the father is the child's biological father, and the child satisfies all the above requirements will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the child becomes an adult.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.

Scenario Five

Child of parents in HM Armed Forces

A child born outside the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

- the child was born after 12 January 2010; and
- at the time of the child's birth, their mother or father was serving in HM Armed Forces outside the UK; and
- both parents consent; and
- if the child is aged 10 or over, the Home Office is satisfied that they are of good character.

This right continues into adulthood.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. The child's full birth certificate and proof that the child satisfies all the above requirements will need to be sent to the Home Office.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid in full unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.

Scenario Six

Children who would have a right to be registered as a British citizen had their mother and their biological father, who was serving in the UK Armed Forces, been married

A child born outside the UK has the right to be registered as a British citizen if:

- their mother and biological father were not married at the time of their birth; and
- they otherwise meet all the requirements of scenario five; and
- the child is not already a British citizen.

This right continues into adulthood.

The registration application can be made in the same way as in scenario five but proof that the father is the child's biological father will also be required. The registration fee is the same as in that scenario.



Can a child be registered as a British citizen in other circumstances?

From time to time, Home Office policy is changed. This can affect when the Home Office will usually register a child, including the scenarios on pages 18-19. Advice should be sought from a citizenship law specialist.

The Home Office has the discretion to register any child as a British citizen.

If an application is made, the Home Office will usually register a child in the UK as a British citizen in the following scenarios.

Scenario One A child settled in the UK

The Home Office will usually register a child if:

- the child is settled in the UK; and
- if the child is aged 10 or over, the Home Office is satisfied that the child is of good character; and either
- if the child has been living lawfully in the UK for at least five years and been settled for at least 12 months, both parents have also lived in the UK lawfully for five years and are settled; or
- if the child has been living in the UK for the last 2 years, at least one parent is a British citizen or about to become one and the other parent is a British citizen or settled in the UK.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. Proof that the child is settled, and the other circumstances set out above are met will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the child becomes an adult.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.

Scenario Two Children who have lived in the UK for 10 years

The Home Office will usually register a child if:

- the child has lived in the UK for 10 years; and
- the child has leave to enter or remain; and
- the child's parents or parent has leave to enter or remain; and
- the Home Office is satisfied that the child is of good character.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. Proof that the child has lived in the UK for 10 years and the other circumstances set out above are met will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the child becomes an adult.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.

Scenario Three

Children in local authority care

Depending on the circumstances, if a child is in local authority care, that may show their future clearly lies in the UK and they should be registered as a British citizen. If a child is aged 10 or older, the Home Office will need to be satisfied that the child is of good character.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. Supporting evidence (e.g. a letter) from the local authority will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the child becomes an adult.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.



Scenario Four

Children who would have a right to be registered as a British citizen had their mother and their biological father who joins HM Armed Forces been married

The Home Office should register a child if:

- the child was born in the UK after 12 January 2010; and
- their mother and biological father were not married at the time of their birth; and
- their biological father becomes a serving member of HM Armed Forces; and
- the child is not already a British citizen; and
- the Home Office is satisfied that the child is of good character.

The registration application can be made by post or online. The Home Office Form MN1 may be used. Proof that the father is the child's biological father, and the child satisfies all the above requirements will need to be sent to the Home Office. The application must be received by the Home Office before the child becomes an adult.

There is a Home Office fee. However, there is no fee for a child who is looked after by a local authority. Otherwise, the fee must be paid unless the fee is unaffordable and a fee waiver is granted.



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BUT

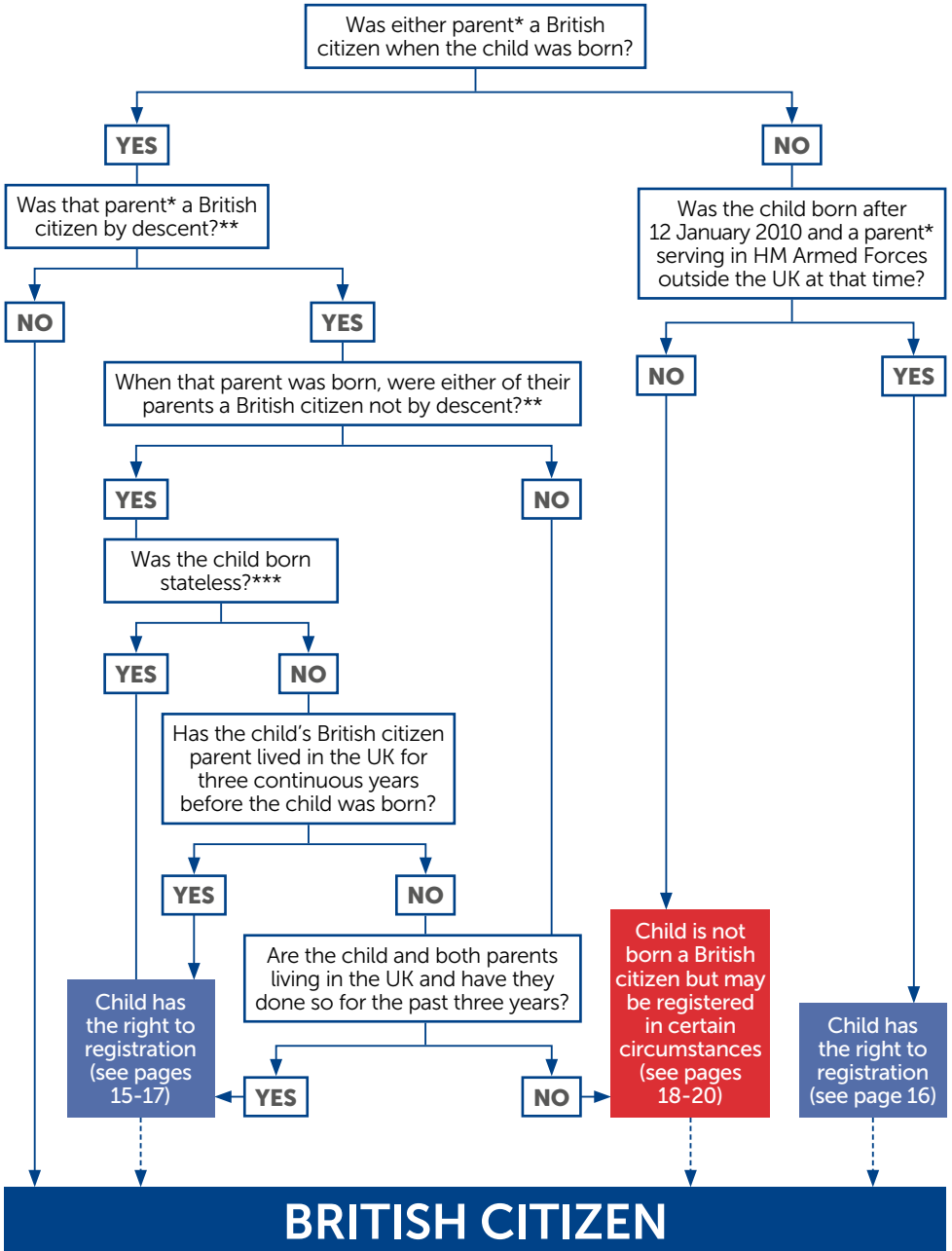
Because the Home Office has a wide discretion to register any child as a British citizen, it is possible to apply when you don't meet all the Home Office guidance.

There may be circumstances in which:

- it can be demonstrated that the child's future clearly lies in the UK; and
- the child is closely connected to the UK; and
- it would be in the child's best interests to be registered as a British citizen; and
- if the child is aged 10 or over, the Home Office is satisfied that the child is of good character.

Detailed supporting evidence will be required to show the strength of the child's connection to the UK and that the child's future clearly lies here.

Children born outside the UK



*If parents are not married, see meaning of 'Father' on page 6

See meaning of 'Descent' on page 22 *See meaning of 'Stateless' on page 23

Glossary

Acquisition – This means the way someone becomes a citizen – for example, getting citizenship automatically (usually at a child's birth).

Child – For the purposes of nationality law this means a person under the age of 18.

Declaration of parentage – A declaration of parentage is a decision of the Family Court confirming that someone is a child's parent. Advice about this may be obtained from a family law specialist.

Descent – A person is a British citizen by descent when born outside the UK to a parent who is a British citizen otherwise than by descent. This means the parent must be a British citizen through birth in the UK, adoption, registration, or naturalisation. However, if the parent is a British citizen by registration, the person will not be born a British citizen by descent if the parent was registered as a British citizen by descent.

European Economic Area (EEA) – The EEA includes all EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway. Switzerland is not an EEA member but under EU law Swiss nationals have the same rights to live and work in the EU as EEA nationals.

European Union (EU) – The EU countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

EU Settlement Scheme – This scheme is for EEA and Swiss nationals and their

family members who were living in the UK before 31 December 2020 to apply for indefinite leave to remain (referred to as 'settled status'). Under the scheme, some EEA and Swiss nationals and their family members may first have to get limited leave to remain (referred to as 'pre-settled status'). Further information may be sought from an immigration law specialist.

Good character requirement – The requirement to be of good character applies to a person aged 10 or over. It is not defined in the British Nationality Act 1981. The Home Office may, for example, take account of any criminal convictions, fines and cautions. It is particularly important to seek advice from a citizenship law specialist where any of these may apply.

Hague Convention – This is an international agreement setting standards for adoption laws.

HM Passport Office (HMPO) – This is the part of the Home Office that deals with passport applications.

HM Armed Forces – This refers to the British Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, and Royal Marines.

Home Office – This is a UK government department. Its responsibilities include dealing with applications and making decisions relating to British citizenship and passports.

Indefinite leave – An immigration status given by the Home Office which means a person is settled (see below). A person may have indefinite leave to enter or remain. In either case, they are settled.

Judicial review – This is the procedure by which the High Court can check the Home Office is acting within the law.

Looked after child – A child in care is a looked after child if the local authority responsible for them has taken responsibility under legal provisions that are specified in the laws of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. A looked after child is exempt from the fee for registration as a British citizen

Nationality law – This defines who is a citizen of a country and how someone might gain that citizenship. In the UK this may be by birth, adoption, registration, or naturalisation.

Naturalisation – This is the process for most adult migrants applying to become British citizens.

Overstay – An overstay is someone who has stayed in the UK longer than permitted by the leave to enter or remain they were given. However, someone who applies for further leave to remain before their leave expires is not an overstay while that application remains to be decided.

Permanent residence – Before the UK left the EU, this immigration status applied to someone from an EEA country or Switzerland, or their family member, who had lived in the UK for a certain number of years, usually five, and who fulfilled certain conditions, such as working or being economically active for that period.

Registration – This is the process for children and certain categories of adults to become British citizens. Registration is always by entitlement except in the case

of children whose registration rights are subject to the discretion of the Home Office, and in some circumstances where adults may be registered at the discretion of the Home Office.

Separated child – A separated child is a child living in the UK, who is not cared for by the child's parents or anyone who has parental responsibility.

Settled – A person is settled if the UK is their ordinary place of residence, and they have permission to stay here permanently. Someone living in the UK, who has indefinite leave, is therefore settled.

Before the UK left the European Union, EEA and Swiss nationals were treated as settled if they had permanent residence under EU law. Some EEA nationals were treated as being settled even without indefinite leave or permanent residence. This particularly applies in the UK to the period up to 2 October 2000. Advice should be sought from a citizenship law specialist.

Stateless – This means that no country accepts the stateless person as a citizen. To show that someone is stateless, it will usually be necessary to obtain proof from the country or countries of their parents' citizenships that they do not have that citizenship.

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) – This is the part of the Home Office that deals with registration and naturalisation as a British citizen. It also deals with immigration and asylum claims.

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The information contained in this booklet is correct as of April 2025.

Funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

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