

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION
ON THE REPUBLIC ACT (RA) NO. 9225 OR THE
PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND RE-ACQUISITION ACT OF 2003**

What is the Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act (RA) of 2003?

Republic Act (R.A) No. 9225 or the Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003 is a law signed by the Philippine President on 29 August 2003, which grants natural-born Filipinos who have lost their Filipino citizenship through naturalization in a foreign country (e.g., Switzerland), the opportunity to re-acquire their Philippine citizenship without having to renounce the foreign citizenship they currently hold. A copy of the law may be viewed from Philippine Senate [weblink](#) or through: https://www.senate.gov.ph/republic_acts/ra%209225.pdf.

Who can apply for retention / reacquisition of Philippine citizenship under RA 9225?

Former natural-born Filipinos who have lost their citizenship by foreign naturalization, without having to expressly renounce their Philippine citizenship, may file a Petition to re-acquire their Philippine citizenship under RA 9225. The petition form may be downloaded from the Philippine Embassy [weblink](#) or directly from this [link](https://bernepe.dfa.gov.ph/images/Dual_Citizenship_Form.pdf): https://bernepe.dfa.gov.ph/images/Dual_Citizenship_Form.pdf.

Note that Philippine citizenship may be lost through various means such as naturalization in a foreign county, express renunciation of citizenship, or by subscribing to the laws of a foreign country upon reaching the age of majority. For more information, please view the Philippine Commonwealth Act No. 63 ([CA 63](#)) of 1936 or click: https://lawphil.net/statutes/comacts/ca_63_1936.html. Concerned Filipino citizens intending to renounce their Philippine Citizenship must execute an [Affidavit of Renunciation](#). The said Affidavit will be transmitted to the appropriate Philippine authorities and will form part of the permanent files of the Philippine Government.

Petitions with the [complete documents](#) submitted by the applicant under RA 9225 to retain / reacquire his/her Philippine citizenship will be evaluated by the Embassy. Following evaluation, the applicant will be required to take an Oath of Allegiance to the Philippine Government as a Filipino citizen. The said Oath of Allegiance will be administered by the Consular Officer of the Embassy and/or Consulate/Consulate General where the petition was filed. Following his/her Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, the said natural born Filipino citizen who became citizen of a foreign country:

- Before the enactment of RA 9225 is deemed to have reacquired his / her Philippine citizenship, or
- After the enactment of RA 9225 is deemed to have retained his /her Philippine citizenship

All petitioners under RA 9225 must take an Oath of Allegiance before any public officer authorized by the Republic of the Philippines at the Philippine Embassy or Consulate (if residing outside the Philippines), who will administer their Oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, to wit:

"I _____, solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and obey the laws and legal orders promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Philippines; and I hereby declare that I recognize and accept the supreme authority of the Philippines and will maintain true faith and allegiance thereto; and that I imposed this obligation upon myself voluntarily without mental reservation or purpose of evasion."

Who are natural-born citizens of the Philippines?

Former natural-born citizens of the Philippines are those who are citizens of the Philippines from birth without having to perform any act to acquire or perfect their Philippine citizenship. These are:

- Those whose fathers or mothers are citizens of the Philippines at the time of their birth, and
- Those born before January 17, 1973, of Filipino mothers, who elect Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority

Those who were born in Switzerland or Liechtenstein who met the above mentioned conditions but whose births have yet to be reported to the Philippine Government through the Philippine Embassy, please visit the [Civil Registry](#) page of the Embassy or this link: <https://bernepe.dfa.gov.ph/sample-sites/civil-registry>.

How can one prove that he / she is a natural-born Filipino citizen?

A former natural-born citizen shall submit the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)-authenticated copy of his or her:

- Birth Certificate (BC), if born in the Philippines, or
- Report of Birth (ROB), if born abroad

If the marriage of the applicant and/or birth of his/her child has / have yet to be reported to the Embassy, please visit the [Civil Registry](#) page of the Embassy or this link: <https://bernepe.dfa.gov.ph/sample-sites/civil-registry>.

Married women, especially those who have adopted the surname of their husband, are also required to present an PSA-authenticated Marriage Certificate (MC, if married in the Philippines) or PSA-authenticated Report of Marriage (ROM, if married abroad).

The authenticated copy of the BC/ROB and/or MC/ROM may be secured directly from the [PSA website](#).

How does one retain / re-acquire Philippine citizenship?

Under Republic Act No. 9225, a natural-born Filipino who lost his/her Filipino citizenship through naturalization in a foreign country without expressly renouncing his/her Philippine citizenship may re-acquire Filipino citizenship by taking the Philippine Oath of Allegiance before a duly authorized Philippine official. The Philippine Oath of Allegiance under RA 9225 does not require a person to renounce his allegiance to any other country. Thus, former Filipinos who are now Swiss citizens will not be required to renounce your Swiss citizenship.

A copy of the form and list of requirements, as well as schedule of fees, may be downloaded from the Embassy's [Philippine Citizenship](#) webpage or through: <https://bernepe.dfa.gov.ph/sample-sites/philippine-citizenship>.

A former natural-born Filipino citizen may file a petition to retain / re-acquire Philippine citizenship under RA 9225 at the Philippine Embassy in Berne. For residents of the Cantons of Geneva and Vaud, please directly contact the Philippine Consulate General in Geneva through the following details:

The Philippine Consulate General in Geneva
Address: Allee David-Morse 14, 1202 Geneva
Email: genevapcg.consular@dfa.gov.ph
Website: <https://genevapcg.dfa.gov.ph/>
Tel. No.: +41 (02) 22 716 1930
Mobile No.: +41 (0) 79 136 9114

A former natural-born Filipino citizen who is already in the Philippines shall file a petition under oath with the Commissioner of Immigration. For information on this, please visit the [Bureau of Immigration](#) (BI) website (<https://immigration.gov.ph/>) and click "Services" then "Citizenship", or by visiting the [link: https://immigration.gov.ph/services/citizenship-retention-and-aquisition/application-for-retention-re-acquisition-of-phil-citizenship](https://immigration.gov.ph/services/citizenship-retention-and-aquisition/application-for-retention-re-acquisition-of-phil-citizenship).

Should one who was automatically conferred / granted Swiss citizenship by virtue of having been married to a Swiss citizen prior to 01 January 1992 submit a petition to retain / re-acquire Philippine citizenship under RA 9225?

No. Former natural-born Filipinos who were automatically conferred / granted their Swiss citizenship by virtue of their marriage to their Swiss husband prior to 01 January 1992 do not need to submit a petition. They remain Filipino citizens since they did not go through the process of naturalization as a Swiss citizen.

They, however, must show proof of automatic conferment of Swiss citizenship (such as the PSA-authenticated MC, if married in the Philippines or PSA-authenticated ROM, if married outside of the Philippines), or Swiss Eheschein/Marriage Contract.

If the concerned applicant who was married to a Swiss citizen intends to apply for a Philippine passport but only has the Eheschein or the Swiss-issued Marriage Certificate with them (and has not yet filed their ROM for their marriage that took place in Switzerland or outside of the Philippines), they will be required to file their ROM at the Embassy if the marriage was solemnized in Switzerland and subsequently secure a PSA-authenticated copy of their ROM from the PSA before their passport application can be processed. Please view the information, including forms and requirements, on [Civil Registry](#) page of the Embassy for this.

Can minor dependent/s of the applicant acquire Philippine citizenship under RA 9225?

Yes. RA 9225 provides for the acquisition of Philippine citizenship by children, below 18 years old, of former natural-born Filipinos who have successfully retained or re-acquired Philippine citizenship under the provisions of the same law.

For the concerned qualified applicants, the same documentary requirements shall be submitted to the Embassy (including the PSA-authenticated Marriage Certificate or PSA original marriage certificate of parents).

Applicants filing a petition under RA 9225 may include their qualified dependents in their petition for retention or re-acquisition of citizenship as beneficiaries and acquire the Philippine citizenship. Qualified dependents are those children of the eligible applicants, whether legitimate or illegitimate or adopted, who are below 18 years old. [Consular Fees](#) apply.

Note that minor dependent/s who were born prior to the parent/s acquiring Swiss or other foreign citizenship are considered natural born Filipino citizens. Their names should not be included in the petition form to be filled-out by their parent/s.

What is the citizenship status of one's children after he / she retains / re-acquires Philippine citizenship?

If his/her children are unmarried and below 18 years of age upon re-acquisition of Filipino citizenship, his/her children are recognized as Filipino citizens under Philippine laws and are entitled to the rights and privileges attendant thereto.

What rights and privileges are one entitled to in retaining / re-acquiring Philippine citizenship?

Filipinos who have retained / re-acquired their Filipino citizenship under RA 9225 may once again enjoy full civil and political rights under existing laws of the Philippines. These include the:

- Right to vote in Philippine national elections
- Right to own land and property in the Philippines
- Right to engage in business or commerce as a Filipino
- Privilege to hold a Philippine passport; and
- Other rights, privileges, and freedoms enjoyed by Filipino citizens in accordance with the 1987 Philippine Constitution

What are the obligations once a natural born Filipino retained / re-acquired his / her Philippine citizenship?

Filipinos who have re-acquired or retained their Filipino citizenship under RA 9225 also assumed his/her obligations under existing laws of the Philippines. It includes the payment of necessary taxes imposed by the Philippine Government.

Under [Republic Act No. \(RA\) 8424](#) of 1997, only income derived from the Philippines are taxed by the Philippine government. On 24 June 1998, however, the Philippines and Switzerland signed a Convention on taxation to avoid double taxation for Filipinos who derive income from Switzerland and for Swiss who derive income from the Philippines. A copy of the agreement may be from the [weblink](#) of the Philippine Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or directly through this link: https://www.bir.gov.ph/images/bir_files/international_tax_affairs/Switzerland%20treaty.pdf.

The Philippine Government will tax the individual for income generated and assets held in the Philippines. The Swiss Government will tax the individual for income generated and assets held in Switzerland.

Can one who retained / re-acquired his / her Philippine citizenship hold or run public office in the Philippines?

Yes, provided that he/she meets the qualifications for holding such office as required by the 1987 Constitution and existing laws.

Those planning to run for elective office must, at the time of the filing of the certificate of candidacy, make a personal and sworn renunciation of any and all foreign citizenship before authorized public officers. The same requirement is imposed on those who are about to be appointed to any public office in the Philippines.

Can one who retained / re-acquired his / her Philippine citizenship vote in the Philippines?

Yes. As stated above, a person who has retained / reacquired his/her Filipino citizenship may *vote in elections in the Philippines* provided that he/she complies with the residency requirements under existing Philippine election law.

He/She, however, may *vote abroad in Philippine national elections* (President, Vice President, Senators, and sectoral representatives) under the Philippine [Overseas Voting](#) Act or the Republic Act No. 10590: An Act Amending Republic Act No. 9189 of 2003, Entitled “An Act providing for a System of Overseas Absentee Voting by qualified citizens of the Philippines abroad, Appropriating funds therefor and for other purposes”, not otherwise disqualified by law, who is abroad on the day of elections.

Can one apply for a Philippine passport after retaining / re-acquiring his / her Philippine citizenship?

Yes, as a full-pledged Filipino citizen, he/she is accorded the privilege to hold a Philippine passport provided that the [requirements](#) for its issuance are complete.

Appointments for passports may be secured through the Global Online Appointment System ([GOAS](#)). For more information, including the list of requirements and consular fees, visit the Embassy’s [Passport page](#): <https://bernepe.dfa.gov.ph/sample-sites/passport> or click: https://bernepe.dfa.gov.ph/images/The_Philippine_Passport-COR-16Aug.pdf.

Does one who retained / re-acquire Philippine citizenship need to reside in the Philippines?

Those who re-acquired or retained their Filipino citizenship are not required to reside in the Philippines.

Can one practice his / her profession in the Philippines after retaining / re-acquiring his /her Philippine citizenship?

A natural born Filipino who re-acquired or retained his / her Philippine citizenship does not automatically gain the right to practice his/her profession in the Philippines.

To be allowed to do so, he/she must apply with the proper Philippine authority (i.e., [Professional Regulations Commission](#) and other accrediting bodies) for a license or permit to engage in such practice.

As a Filipino citizen, can one's spouse who is a foreign national live in the Philippines?

Yes, a non-quota immigrant visa may be issued to a Filipino citizen's foreign spouse which entitles him/her to permanently reside in the Philippines. The visa may be obtained by applying at the Philippine Embassies/Consulates General. For the foreign spouse of a Filipino citizen, please visit the [Visa Page](#) of the Embassy for more information.

The effectivity of the visa, however, is dependent upon the Filipino citizen's retention / re-acquisition of his/her Philippine citizenship.

Can one who expressly renounced his/her Philippine citizenship submit a petition under RA 9225 to retain / re-acquire his / her Philippine citizenship?

No. Former Philippine citizens who expressly renounced their Philippine citizenship can reacquire their Philippine citizenship by submitting a petition under different Philippine laws, including the [Commonwealth Act \(CA\) No. 473](#) of 1939, and not under RA 9225. Please consult your Philippine lawyer for this process.

Concerned individuals in Switzerland (except those residing in the Cantons of Geneva and Vaud) and Liechtenstein may execute their [Affidavit of Renunciation](#) at the Philippine Embassy.

Can applicant/s 18 years of age and over born to a former natural-born Philippine citizen who has yet to retain / re-acquire his / her Philippine citizenship submit a petition under RA 9225 to acquire Philippine citizenship?

No. Said applicants should file for Recognition as Filipino Citizen directly with the Bureau of Immigration (BI). For more information, please visit the BI [weblink: https://immigration.gov.ph/services/citizenship-retention-and-aquisition/recognition-as-filipino-citizen](https://immigration.gov.ph/services/citizenship-retention-and-aquisition/recognition-as-filipino-citizen). Said foreign citizens who were born outside of the Philippines to parents, who were still Filipino citizens at the time of their birth may be Recognized as a Filipino Citizen, without losing their current citizenship.

Questions on the matter, as well as on the [Affirmation of Recognition as Filipino Citizen](#) should be directed to the BI through the following [contact](#) details: <https://immigration.gov.ph/contact-us/main-office>.

END