Nationality and Citizenship

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION**

**CHAPTER III  
 NATIONALITY AND CITIZENSHIP**

**Article 146 - ON NATURAL NATIONALITY** They are of Paraguayan nationality:1. persons born on the territory of the Republic;  
2. children of a Paraguayan mother or father who, if one or both of them are in the service of the Republic, are born abroad;

3. children of a Paraguayan mother or father born abroad, when they reside permanently in the Republic; and  
4. infants of parents ignored, collected on the territory of the Republic.

The formalization of the right enshrined in paragraph 3. it shall be made by simple declaration of the interested party, when the latter is over eighteen years of age. If he has not yet fulfilled them, the statement of his legal representative will be valid until that age, being subject to ratification by the interested party.

**Article 147 - ON THE NON-DEPRIVATION OF NATURAL NATIONALITY** No natural Paraguayan will be deprived of his nationality, but may voluntarily renounce it.

**Article 148 - ON NATIONALITY BY NATURALIZATION** Foreigners will be able to obtain Paraguayan nationality by naturalization if they meet the following requirements:

1. of legal age:  
2. minimum residence of three years in national territory;  
 3. exercise in the country of any profession, trade, science, art or industry, and

4. good conduct, defined by law.

**Article 149 - ON MULTIPLE NATIONALITY** Multiple nationality may be admitted by international treaty by reciprocity of constitutional rank between the States of the natural of origin and the one of adoption.

**Article 150 - LOSS OF NATIONALITY** Naturalized Paraguayans lose their nationality by virtue of an unjustified absence from the Republic for more than three years, declared in court, or by the voluntary acquisition of another nationality.

**Article 151 - ON HONORARY NATIONALITY**

By law of Congress, foreigners who have rendered eminent services to the Republic may be distinguished with honorary nationality.

**Article 152 - ON CITIZENSHIP** They are citizens:  
 1. Any person of natural Paraguayan nationality, from the age of eighteen, and

2. Any person of Paraguayan nationality by naturalization, after two years of having obtained it.

**Article 153 - SUSPENSION OF THE EXERCISE OF CITIZENSHIP** The exercise of citizenship is suspended:  
 1. by the adoption of another nationality, except international reciprocity;

2. due to incapacity declared in court, which prevents acting freely and with discernment, and

3. when the person is serving a judicial sentence, with a custodial sentence.  
 The suspension of citizenship ends with the legal cessation of the cause that determines it.

**Article 154 - ON THE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF THE JUDICIARY** The law will establish the rules on the acquisition, recovery and option of nationality, as well as on the suspension of citizenship.

The Judiciary shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear such cases.

**LAW No. 582/95**

**REGULATING ARTICLE 146, SECTION 3) OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION**

**AND MODIFIES ARTICLE 18 OF LAW No. 1,266 OF NOVEMBER 4, 1987**

**THE CONGRESS OF THE PARAGUAYAN NATION PENALTIES WITH FORCE OF LAW**

**Article 1.-** Regulate the application of Article 146 subsection 3) and the last paragraph of Article 146 of the Constitution in the manner established in this Law.

**Article 2.-** The formalization of the declaration of natural Paraguayan nationality may be carried out:

* a) For the child of a Paraguayan mother or father, born abroad, when he / she resides in the Republic permanently; Y,
* b) By the legal representative if the interested party is under eighteen years of age.

**Article 3.-**  The interested party will formalize this right by means of a simple declaration before the Civil and Commercial Court of First Instance of the jurisdiction of his domicile, accompanying the following documents: his legalized birth certificate and that of the father or mother, and the proofs that prove its permanent establishment in the country.

**Article 4.-** From the presentation of the interested party, the Judge will run a hearing to the pertinent Fiscal Agent and without further processing will issue a resolution. In the event that a favorable resolution is issued, he will order the corresponding registration in the Directorate of the Civil Status Registry and if he rejects it, the resolution will be appealable.

**Article 5.-**  If the declaration is made by the legal representative of the minor, the interested party will ratify it after having reached the age of eighteen before the Court mentioned in Article 3. of this Law, ratification that will be communicated to the Directorate of the Civil Status Registry.

**Article 6.-** Modify Article 18 of Law No. 1,266 of November 4, 1987, which is worded as follows:  
 "Births, adoptions, marriages, citizenship options and deaths will be recorded in separate books. The adoption book will be enabled only in the General Directorate. Entries shall be made in duplicate and at the same time. The ratification of the option and other facts relating to marital status shall be the subject of marginal entries in the respective heading. If the entry is made in a single authorized book, it shall be valid without prejudice to the penalty applicable to the official who has incurred the omission”.