

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Dual Citizenship

### **Question: Who are eligible for dual citizenship?**

#### **Answer:**

1. R.A. 9225 covers former natural-born Filipino citizens who have acquired foreign citizenship by naturalization.
2. Natural-born citizens of the Philippines who, after the effectivity of R.A. 9225 on 17 September 2003, became citizens of a foreign country shall retain their Philippine citizenship. However, one is still required to express the intention of retaining his/her Philippine citizenship by submitting an application for Retention of Philippine citizenship and take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, from the Philippine Foreign Service Posts where the application was submitted, or to the Bureau of Immigration (B.I.) in Manila, Philippines.

### **Question: How do I prove that I am a natural-born Filipino?**

**Answer:** Natural-born Filipino citizens are those who are citizens of the Philippines from birth without having to perform any act to acquire or perfect their Philippine citizenship. The following are considered natural-born Filipino citizens:

1. A person born after 17 January 1973, whose fathers or mothers are Filipino citizens at the time of their birth;
2. Those born before 17 January 1973 of Filipino mothers, and who elected Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority;
3. A person born on or after 14 May 1935, whose father was a Filipino citizen. In case the father was not a Filipino citizen and the mother was a Filipino citizen, he/she must have elected Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority pursuant to the provisions of the 1935 Constitution;
4. A person born prior to 14 May 1935 and at least one parent was an inhabitant and resident of the Philippines.

### **Question: What document should I present to prove that I am a natural born Filipino?**

**Answer:** Applicant shall submit his/her Birth Certificate (original and photocopy) issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), formerly National Statistics Office (NSO). If you do not have a copy of your birth certificate, you may request a certified copy online through their website: ([www.psaserbilis.com.ph](http://www.psaserbilis.com.ph)).

### **Question: Will my application for dual citizenship under R.A. 9225 affect my U.S. citizenship?**

**Answer:** Prospective applicants for dual citizenship under R.A. 9225 are advised to visit and read the contents of the website of the U.S. Department of State which contains information about current U.S. government policy on dual nationality, or to seek legal advice from a U.S. immigration lawyer.

**Question: I am unable to present my U.S. Certificate of Naturalization at the time of my application, what will I do?**

**Answer:** After a thorough interview and assessment of the Consular Officer, the applicant may execute an Affidavit ([click here to download form](#)) explaining how foreign citizenship was acquired, and why said certificate cannot be presented. This Affidavit has to be notarized.

**Question: What is the schedule of the Oath Taking Ceremony?**

**Answer:** The Consular Officer will administer the Oath of the applicants every Thursday of the following week from the date of application, or on dates to be scheduled.

**Question: What should I wear for the Oath Taking Ceremony?**

**Answer:** The ceremony is a solemn and meaningful event. Please dress in a proper attire to respect the dignity of the event.

**Question: My name in my Philippine Birth Certificate is different from my U.S. Certificate of Naturalization, identification cards, and other documents. Will this affect my application?**

**Answer:** Applicant may a) execute an Affidavit ([click here to download form](#)) explaining the discrepancy, and b) present original and submit photocopy/copies of at least two (2) public or private documents showing the correct name of the applicant. This Affidavit has to be notarized.

**Question: I still have a valid Philippine passport even though I am already a naturalized U.S. Citizen. Once I apply for dual citizenship, can I still use the same passport or do I have to apply for a new one?**

**Answer:** No, you can no longer use your valid Philippine passport and the same will be cancelled physically by the Consular Officer. Applicants are asked to surrender their existing Philippine passports (if still valid) and are advised to apply for a new one only after taking their Oath as a dual citizen and not earlier. The latest Philippine passport has been rendered null and void the moment you were naturalized as a U.S. citizen.

**Question: Can I apply for a Philippine passport on the same day as my application for dual citizenship?**

**Answer:** The application for a Philippine passport is a **separate transaction**. Since all oath taking ceremonies for dual citizenship will be scheduled on later dates, the applicant remains ineligible to apply for a new passport until he/she has taken his/her oath.

**Question: Am I required to apply for a Philippine passport once I become a dual citizen as proof of my Philippine citizenship?**

**Answer:** Application for a Philippine passport is optional and not mandatory. It should be noted that the Identification Certificate issued by the Philippine Embassy/Consulate General is considered sufficient proof of Philippine citizenship for those persons entering or leaving the Philippines holding foreign passports. Applicants may also apply for a Philippine passport, which is considered a universally recognized government issued identification document (ID).

**Question: Since I'm a dual citizen, what passport should I present when entering and departing the Philippines?**

**Answer:** Persons who wish to declare their dual citizenship are advised to present their foreign passport as well as their valid Philippine passport and/or Identification Certificate upon entering and departing the Philippines.

**Question: Can my spouse, who is a foreign national, live with me in the Philippines?**

**Answer:** An immigrant visa may be issued to a Filipino citizen's foreign spouse that entitles him/her to permanently reside in the Philippines. Said visa may be obtained by applying at the Philippine Embassy/Consulate General and with the Philippine Bureau of Immigration. The validity of the visa, however, is contingent upon the Filipino citizenship of his/her spouse.

**Question: I am a dual citizen and I will travel with my foreign spouse and children to the Philippines. Does my foreign spouse and children need to secure additional travel document/s from the Philippine Embassy/Consulate General beforehand?**

**Answer:** Under the Balikbayan Program, a Filipino citizen's foreign spouse and children traveling to the Philippines do not need to secure other travel documents because they are entitled to a visa-free entry to the Philippines for a period of one (1) year, among other privileges provided they travel together with the former Filipino spouse or parent. Otherwise, if the foreign spouse/child/children is a visa-required national, he/she/they would need to apply for an appropriate visa.

Please note that while Manila and certain parts of the country are still under modified enhanced community quarantine, the Balikbayan Program may be availed of for emergency cases only.

**Question: Is there a residency requirement to be eligible for dual citizenship?**

**Answer:** Residency in the Philippines is not a requirement for those who reacquired/retained their Philippine citizenship. Those who intend to vote in local elections, however, must establish residence in the locality where they wish to vote.

**Question: Since I am a dual citizen, can I permanently reside in the Philippines?**

**Answer:** You can now reside in the Philippines indefinitely and for as long as you want without having to apply for a Philippine visa and pay immigration fees. You can even choose to retire or permanently reside in the Philippines, provided you show proof of your Dual Citizenship (e.g, Identification Certificate) together with your U.S. passport upon arrival and departure in the Philippines.

**Question: What are the rights and privileges that I would enjoy when I get my dual citizenship?**

**Answer:** You will enjoy all full civil, economic and political rights enjoyed by Filipino citizens. Among them are:

1. Travel using a Philippine passport
2. Ownership of real property in the Philippines (subject to limitations provided by law)
3. Engage in business, trade and commercial activities
4. Practice one's profession, in accordance with existing Philippine Laws; A person who has reacquired Philippine citizenship may be able to practice his/her profession in the Philippines, provided that he/she applies with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the Supreme Court for Lawyers, and other applicable Philippine agencies or bodies for a license or permit to engage in such professional practice. Those appointed to a public office shall make a sworn renunciation of the oath of allegiance to the country where they took their oath.
5. Exercise of right to vote or suffrage during Philippine elections and that the individual must comply with the residency requirement under existing Philippine election laws. The person or individual may, however, vote overseas in Philippine national elections (for President, Vice-President, Senators and sectoral representatives) in accordance with the provisions of the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003.
6. Your foreign spouse also becomes eligible for an immigrant visa
7. All other rights and privileges enjoyed by Filipino citizens

**Question: What do I need to know about payment of Philippine Travel Taxes?**

**Answer:** Travel Tax exemption is being granted to dual citizens departing the Philippines and returning to the U.S. whose arrival is stamped on the Philippine passport and whose stay does not exceed one (1) year. For this purpose, a Travel Tax Exemption Certificate is issued upon presentation of both the Philippine and US passports. Processing fee of PHP 200.00 is collected for every certificate issued.

Dual citizens whose stay in the Philippines exceed one (1) year will pay the travel tax irrespective of which passport they use for travel.

**Question: Will I be required to pay Income Tax/Other Taxes in the Philippines?**

**Answer:** Only Income/s earned in the Philippines will be subject to Philippine Income Tax. Prospective applicants are advised to visit and read the contents of the website of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, which contains information about current U.S. government policy on taxes on incomes earned worldwide, or to seek legal advice from a U.S. tax lawyer.

**For Inquiries:** Please send an email to [dual@philippinessanfrancisco.org](mailto:dual@philippinessanfrancisco.org)