

**THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION**

APPLICATION PROCEDURE (Permanent Residence and Citizenship)

(Extracted Notes)

1. The application forms must be completed in duplicate and signed and notarised by a Justice of the Peace or Notary Public, with \$4.00 Bahamian postage stamp attached.
 2. They should be accompanied by:
 - a. Two (2) passport-size photographs
 - b. Birth Certificate [original (Bahamian) or certified copy (Foreign) with English translation, sealed by the appropriate Consulate Office, where applicable, with \$4.00 Bahamian postage stamps affixed to the translation]
 - c. Original Police Certificate (within 6 months)
 - d. Original Medical Certificate (within 30 days)
 - e. Two (2) original character references (by a Bahamian known to the applicant for at least 5 years, to be verified by the Department)
 - f. \$25.00 processing fee
 - g. Financial reference (citing a figure range) from a reputable Bank or financial institution, verifying economic worth
 - h. Parent's birth/and or marriage certificates, where applicable
 3. If the applicant is/was married, he/she is also required to submit an original/certified copy of marriage certificate, spouse's birth/death certificate, legal separation document or divorce decree, if applicable.
 4. Applicants who were born in The Bahamas and attended school here are also required to submit original reference letters from all of the schools attended, indicating date of entry and completion. Employment letters are also required.
 5. Persons applying for Citizenship under Sections 5 and 6 of the Bahamas Constitution are required to submit newspaper clippings. Once documentation is received, an acknowledgement/interview/request for additional documents letter is sent to the applicant, or their legal representative.
 6. A report on the Immigration status of the applicant is requested from the Department of Immigration, or Family Island Office and in some cases, a security vetting from the Security and Intelligence Branch of the Royal Bahamas Police Force is also requested.
 7. An interview is conducted (Copies of passports are made and attached to file).
 8. Cabinet briefs and files are prepared and sent to the Immigration Board for Minister's recommendation and then forwarded to the Cabinet for final consideration.
 9. After Cabinet has made its decision, the files are returned to the Department of Immigration for further action. Cabinet's decision may be to approve, refuse, or defer the application. If the application is approved or refused, the applicant is informed of the decision. However, if the application is deferred, the applicant is not informed but upon enquiry may be advised that a decision has not yet been made. If the application was deferred for further investigation/inquires, it is resubmitted to Cabinet at a later time for reconsideration, once the conditions have been satisfied.
- N.B. Applications, which are fully documented at the time of the interview, usually take 6 – 8 months for a "final" decision, once the Immigration Board meets on a regular basis.

CONSIDERATIONS [Immigration Act Section 13]

(i) Investors

Accelerated consideration of applications for permanent residence will be given to:

- major international investors, and
- fit and proper owners of a residence valued at \$500,000 or more

(ii) (a) Contracted teachers/nurses, police officers or prison officers

Favorable consideration will be given to persons who have been employed by Government, religious and penal institutions and hospitals for at least 10 years and less than 20 years. Approval may be restricted to area of profession, i.e. right to work as a teacher, nurse, etc.

(b) Physicians/Priests/Religious Members

Favourable consideration will be given to persons who have been so employed for more than 20 years. Approval may be granted without restriction, i.e. right to work.

(iii) Established roots through family ties i.e. persons who resided and worked in the country for at least 20 years.

(iv) Haitian nationals with current legal status who can substantiate their residence since January 1985.

v. All other applicants under this category must satisfy the requirement of home ownership before the application may be considered.

Notes:

- Persons obtaining new passports are required to bring along original Permanent Residence Certificates to have passports re-stamped.
- Minor children endorsed on parent's Certificate of Permanent Residence are required, upon attaining the age of 18, to apply for immigration status in their own right.
- Endorsements on Certificate of Permanent Residence is restricted to residence only. Wives and children do not enjoy the benefits approved for principal certificate holders i.e. right to work unless specified by Cabinet.