

## Am I a German citizen?

If you are US citizen of German origin and would like to find out if you are eligible to apply for a German passport, there are some basic principles of German citizenship law that you should familiarize yourself with first:

German citizenship is mainly acquired and passed on through **descent from a German parent**. The parent has to be German citizen at the time of the birth of the child. Children who are born to former German citizens do not acquire German citizenship. In addition, for children born before January 1st, 1975 to parents who were married to each other at the time of the birth, it was mandatory that the father was a German citizen in order for the child to acquire German citizenship.

Persons who were **born in Germany before the year 2000 to non-German parents did not obtain German citizenship at the time of their birth** and are not eligible for a German passport. Only children born in or after the year 2000 to long-term residents of Germany could or can under certain circumstances receive German citizenship.

The German rules on citizenship are based on the **principle of avoiding dual citizenship**. This means that a German citizen who voluntarily applies for and accepts a foreign nationality on principle loses the German nationality automatically. This rule does not apply to Germans who receive the other citizenship by law or who applied for and received a citizenship of a member state of the European Union or Switzerland after August of 2007.

## Am I entitled to a German passport?

German passports are only issued to German citizens. To determine whether or not you are eligible for a German passport, research into your family history may be necessary. If you are not sure whether or not you are entitled to a German passport and would like to find out more, please answer the following questions and have the answers ready before contacting the German Consulate General.

You can facilitate the process by providing as many details as possible and submit the information in writing, including copies of the following documents:

- your birth certificate
- copies of parent(s)' **German** passport(s) at the time of your birth
- if applicable, parents' marriage certificate
- copies of grandparent(s)' **German** passport at the time of your parents birth
- if applicable, grandparents' marriage certificate
- all US certificates of naturalization of ancestors
- any German certificate of citizenship of family members or ancestors

You may be asked for additional documents.

## Questionnaire: Am I a German citizen and entitled to a German passport?

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*Please note that completing this questionnaire does not replace the formal procedure of determination of your German citizenship and does not result in a legally binding decision as to if you hold German citizenship or not.*

1. Your first and last name, address, phone number and email	
2. What is your exact date of birth and where were you born?	
3. Which citizenship(s) did your father and mother hold at the time of <b>your</b> birth?	
4. Were your parents married to each other at the time of your birth? If applicable: When and where did your parents get married?	
5. When, if ever, did you apply for and receive US citizenship (or any other)?	
6. Please provide the date of birth and place of birth for both your mother and father.	
7. Which citizenship(s) did your father and your mother hold at the time of <b>their</b> birth?	
8. When, if ever, did your parents apply for and receive US (or any other) citizenship?	
9. Which citizenship(s) did (all) your grandparents hold at the time of your parents' birth?	
10. Were your grandparents married to each other at the time of your father's/your mother's birth? If applicable: when and where did your grandparents get married?	
11. When, if ever, did your grandparents apply for and receive US citizenship (or any other)?	
12. Which of your ancestors left Germany? When and to which country did they emigrate? If they immigrated to a third country, when did they take US residence?	
13. Did you or your parents or grandparents ever join the armed forces of any country other than Germany voluntarily? If applicable, when and where?	

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Place, date and signature