



CLAIM GUIDE

CHANGES TO THE NATIONALITY LAW

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

The amendments to the Nationality Law came into force on 19 May 2026 and apply to applications submitted on or after that date.

Applications submitted before this date will continue to be assessed under the legislation previously in force.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHANGES?

1 Nationality by Length of Residence

The minimum periods of lawful residence are now:

- 7 years for nationals of CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries) Member States;
- 10 years for nationals of all other countries.

For the purpose of acquiring Portuguese nationality based on residence, the qualifying period is counted from the relevant date established by law, currently corresponding to the issue date of the first residence permit.

The residence periods must also comply with the following limits:

- The 7-year period must fall within a maximum period of 9 years;
- The 10-year period must fall within a maximum period of 12 years.

2 Nationality for Children Born in Portugal

At least one parent must have been lawfully resident in Portugal for five years. The five years correspond to legal residence, meaning actual physical presence in the national territory alone is not sufficient.

Furthermore, Portuguese nationality is no longer acquired automatically by birth. A declaration or application must be submitted to the Civil Registry Office, together with evidence that the legal requirements have been met.

3 Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren of Portuguese Citizens

The substantive rules applicable to applications submitted by children and grandchildren of Portuguese citizens remain essentially unchanged.

The new law also allows great-grandchildren of Portuguese citizens by origin, who have been lawfully resident in Portugal for at least five years, to apply for Portuguese nationality, provided that all other legal requirements are met.

4 Nationality by Marriage or De Facto Union

The minimum period of three years of marriage or de facto union remains unchanged, as do the other legal requirements.

The new legislation limits the grounds on which the Public Prosecutor's Office may oppose the acquisition of nationality by persons who have been married or in a de facto union for more than six years, or who have children together who hold Portuguese nationality.

5 Other Important Changes

The regime for acquiring nationality for descendants of Sephardic Jews has ended.

In addition to proving knowledge of the Portuguese language, some applicants may also be required to demonstrate their connection to the Portuguese community and pass a test covering civic, cultural and historical knowledge, as well as knowledge of Portugal's national symbols.

The implementation of these new requirements is still subject to further regulations. Until those regulations are published, these tests cannot be required.

Exemptions continue to apply, including for minors, persons with a certified disability or incapacity, children and grandchildren of Portuguese citizens, elderly applicants, and individuals who can demonstrate integration through education completed in Portugal.

Transitional Arrangements

Date of Application	Applicable Law
Up to 18 May 2026	Previous legislation
From 19 May 2026	Organic Law No. 1/2026

NOTA: THIS GUIDE PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CHANGES INTRODUCED BY **ORGANIC LAW NO. 1/2026**. EACH APPLICATION IS ASSESSED INDIVIDUALLY AND MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION OR COMPLIANCE WITH FURTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, DEPENDING ON THE APPLICANT'S PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.



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