

Part One
The Citizenship of Bahrain

1. Bahraini Citizenship Act - 1963
2. Amended Bahraini Citizenship Act - 1963
3. Law No (10) for 1981 Amending Bahraini Citizenship Act - 1963

Bahrain Government

Notice

Issue 8 / 1963

We, Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Governor of Bahrain and its territories, on this day, the twenty eighth of Rabie Thani, corresponding to the sixteenth of September 1963 Order the the enacting of the following Act:

Bahraini Citizenship Act – 1963

Title and effective date

1. This Act shall be called the “ Bahraini Citizenship Act for 1963 “, and shall be put into force as of the twenty eighth of Rabie Thani, corresponding to the sixteenth of September 1963 .

Interpretation of Terms:

2. In this Act, unless the context specifically requires otherwise, the following words and terms shall have the meanings designated for each of them:

Alien: Means any person who is not a Bahraini national

Bahraini: means any person who has acquired the nationality of Bahrain by virtue of the provisions of this law.

A naturalized person: Means any person who has been granted the Bahrain nationality under the provisions of Article (6) herein,

A minor person: Means any person who has not yet completed eighteen Gregorian years of age.

A fully competent person: Means a person who is not minor or insane.

Citizenship Acquired by virtue of former law

3. Anyone who has acquired the citizenship of Bahrain by virtue of Notice No 20/1356 dated May 8th, 1937, shall be regarded a Bahraini.

Bahrainis by descent:

4. Anyone shall be regarded a Bahraini national, if:

- (A) Was born in Bahrain after the effective date of this act and his father was a Bahraini at the time of birth.
- (B) Born outside Bahrain, after the effective date of this Act, and his father was a Bahraini national at the time of birth provided that this father or the grandfather was born in Bahrain.
- (C) Born in Bahrain or abroad, after the effective date of this Act, and his mother, at the time of birth was a Bahraini national provided that father was unknown, without nationality or fatherhood was not substantiated.

Bahrainis by birth

5. A person shall be regarded Bahraini by birth if:

- (A) Born in Bahrain, after the effective date of this Act, and his father was also born in Bahrain and has made Bahrain his permanent residence, at the time of birth of that person, provided, however, that this person is not holding another nationality.
- (B) Born in Bahrain, after the effective date of this Act, to unknown parents. Illegal child shall be deemed to have been born in Bahrain, unless otherwise has been proved.

Bahrainis by naturalization:

6. (1) The Bahraini Citizenship may be granted, by order from His Majesty the Governor, to any alien of full legal capacity, if requested by the alien who should meet the following requirements:

- (A) He has made Bahrain, his usual place of residence legally for at least twenty five consecutive years or fifteen years consecutively for Arab nationals, provided, however, that this period shall commences after the effective date of this act.
- (B) Shall be of good conduct
- (C) Must be conversant in Arabic.
- (D) Shall have a real estate in Bahrain registered in his name at the Land Registry Office of the Government of Bahrain.

(2) Notwithstanding, the above Bahraini citizenship may be granted to anyone, by order of His Majesty the Governor.

Bahraini Citizenship may also be granted, by Order of His Majesty the Governor, to any Arab person, upon his request, if that person has rendered Bahrain great services.

(3) An alien who has obtained the citizenship of Bahrain by virtues of this article, shall not be entitled to voting rights, representation, nomination or appointment in local councils (except clubs and private associations), except after the lapse of ten years from date of acquiring the citizenship. This provision is applicable to persons, who have acquired the Bahraini nationality before the effective date of this Act and the ten years span, begins from the effective date of this Act.

(4) If a person is granted the citizenship of Bahrain by virtues of this article, his wife and minor children, shall be regarded Bahraini by naturalization, starting from the date of granting the nationality.

Nationalities of wives

7. (1) If a foreign woman marries a Bahraini, after the date on which this Act enters into force, she will be a Bahraini. And if a Bahraini woman marries an alien, after the date on which this Act enters into force, she shall lose her Bahraini nationality, if and when she acquired the nationality of her husband; otherwise she remains Bahraini; and her Bahraini nationality will be retained to her upon her request, if marriage ceases to subsist and her usual residence is in Bahrain or she returns to live in Bahrain.

(2) If a woman has acquired citizenship of Bahrain by virtues of the above article, or by virtues of section (4) of article (6) of this Act, she shall not lose her nationality if marriage ceases to subsist, unless she retained her original nationality or acquired another nationality. Nationality of such woman may be retained by declaration of His Majesty the Governor, if she request such.

Deprivation of Bahraini nationality from Bahraini persons by naturalization

8. By the order of His Majesty the Governor, Bahraini nationality may be deprived from any person who has acquired the citizenship of Bahrain by naturalization, on the following two cases:

- (1) If a person acquired the citizenship of Bahrain by deception or based on false statements or has hidden substantial information. In such event, Bahraini nationality may be withdrawn from any person who has acquired through that person by virtues of the provisions of section (4) of article (6) herein.
- (2) If a person is found guilty on a case connected with honor and honesty (impugns integrity), within five years of his acquisition of Bahraini nationality. In such event, nationality will be withdrawn from the guilty person only.

Loss of Bahraini nationality

9. (1) A Bahraini citizen may lose his nationality in the following cases:

- (A) If he has voluntarily acquired another nationality and an order is issued by His Majesty the Governor to withdraw the nationality of that person.
- (B) If he renounces his Bahraini nationality and an order is issued by His Majesty the Governor to withdraw the nationality of that person.

(2) If a person has lost his nationality by virtue of this article, his under-aged children will also lose nationality.

Denaturalization of Bahraini nationality

10. Citizenship of Bahrain may be deprived by order of His Majesty the Governor from whoever enjoys such nationality on the following cases:

- (A) If he enters in military service of a foreign country and keeps on service despite an order issued by His Majesty the Governor ordering him to leave such service.
- (B) If he helps or engages in service of an enemy country, or
- (C) If he causes harm to the security of the State.

Restoration of citizenship of Bahrain

11. Citizenship of Bahrain may be restored to any person who has lost citizenship by virtue of the above three articles.

Nullity

12. This act nullifies all other contradicting provisions, stated in any other former law pertaining to citizenship of Bahrain, to the extend that such provisions are contradicting to the provisions of this act.

Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifah

Governor of Bahrain and its Territories

Issued on 28th Rabie Al Thani 1383 H

Corresponding to 16th September 1963

Government of Bahrain

Announcement

Issue No 11 / 1963

We, Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifah, Governor of Bahrain and its Territories, on this day twenty fifth Jumadah AlUlah 1383, corresponding to twelfth October 1963, declare the following:

Citizenship of Bahrain Act (Amended) – 1963

1. This Act is titled “Citizenship of Bahrain Act (Amended) – 1963” and reads and construed as one act together with Citizenship of Bahrain Act – 1963, referred to hereunder as original act.
2. The validity of this act shall commence as from the validity date of the original act.
3. The original act shall be amended as follows:
 - (1) At the end of article 3, the following phrase shall be added: “If he has obtained a valid or renewed passport of Bahrain since 1959, or Bahraini nationality or final judicial decision.
 - (2) In the articles 4 and 5 and before the phrase “after the date on which this act enters into force” will be added, wherever this phrase mentioned, the following two words: “before or”.

Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifah
Governor of Bahrain and its Territories

Issued on 25th Jumadah Al Ulah 1383 H
Corresponding to twelfth October 1963

Decree Law No (10) 1981 Amending Bahrain Citizenship Act for 1963

We, Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Emir of the State of Bahrain

Having reviewed the Constitution, and the Emir Decree No 4 for the year 1975;

Based on the submittals by the Minister of Interior.

And based on the approval of the Council of Ministers,

Decree as follows:--

Article 1

Texts on Articles 7 (1) and 8 (2) of the Bahraini Citizenship Act for 1963 shall be replaced by the following texts:

Article 7 (1):

“An alien woman who gets married to a Bahraini national, after the effective of this act, shall not become a Bahraini national, unless she expresses her wish to the Minister of Interior to acquire that nationality with the marriage relationship for five years after as of date of such wish.

The Minister of Interior may relinquish all this period or parts thereof, and may however, during this period, and for reasons pertaining to national security and public order, deprive that woman from acquiring the citizenship of Bahrain by way of marriage.

A Bahraini woman who marries an alien, does not forfeit her citizenship unless she adopts the nationality of her alien husband. She may acquire her Bahraini nationality if marriage ties are broken and she expresses her wish to the Minister of Interior to acquire her original nationality, and makes Bahrain her usual residence or if she returns to live in Bahrain.”

Article 8 (2)

“If a person is convicted of a crime connected with honor and honesty (impugns integrity), within ten years of his acquisition of Bahraini nationality; nationality will be withdrawn from the convicted person alone.”

Article 2:

The Minister of Interior shall implement this Act which shall become operative as of date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Emir of the State of Bahrain
Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifah

Issued at Riffa' Palace
On 14 Rajab 1401 H
Corresponding to 18 May 1981.

Section Two

Passports

1. Law No (11) of 1975 concerning Passports.
2. Law No (3) of 1977 concerning Amendment of the Provisions of Article (11) of Law No (11) of 1975 concerning Passports.
3. Law No (10) for 1982 concerning Amendment of Law No (11) of 1975 concerning Passports.
4. Ministerial Resolution No (15) of 1976 concerning Rules of Implementation of Law No (11) of 1975 concerning Passports.
5. Ministerial Resolution No (26) of 1977 concerning points specified for entering and leaving the State of Bahrain
6. Ministerial Resolution No (15) of 1977 concerning Amendments of Ministerial Decree No (15) of 1976 concerning Rules of Implementation of Law No (11) of 1975 concerning Passports.
7. Decision No (2) of 1978 concerning Amendment Rules of Ministerial Resolution No (15) of 1976 concerning Rules of Implementation of Law No (11) of 1975 Amended by Ministerial Resolution No (15) of 1977.

Decree Law No (12) Amending Bahraini Citizenship Act of 1963

We, Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Emir of the State of Bahrain,

Having reviewed the Constitution and the Emir Decree No (14) for the year 1975;
The Bahraini Citizenship Act of 1963, Amended by Law issued on 12th October 1963,
and by the Decree No (10) for 1981,
And the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law issued by Decree Law No (12) and its
amendments, based on the submittals by the Minister of Interior.
And based on the approval of the Council of Ministers;

Decree as follows: -

Article 1

Texts of Articles (4, 5,6/4) of Bahraini Citizenship Act (1) - 1963 shall be replaced by
the following texts:

“Article (4):

A person shall be deemed a Bahraini national in the following cases:

- A. If he is born in Bahrain or abroad and his father, at the time of birth, was a Bahraini national.
- B. If he is born in Bahrain or abroad and his mother, at the time of birth, was a Bahraini national, providing that his father was either unknown or not legally to be related to his father.

Article (5):

A person shall be regarded a Bahraini national if born in Bahrain for unknown parents. An illegal child shall be deemed to have born in Bahrain, unless proved to be otherwise.

Article (6/4):

If a man is granted Bahraini Citizenship by virtues of this article, his minor children shall be deemed Bahrainis by naturalization, - and they shall have the right within one

year of reaching their legal age to embrace their original nationality. Any child born to such man after his acquisition of the citizenship of Bahrain, shall be regarded a Bahraini national.

Acquiring citizenship of Bahrain by an alien, does not give his wife the nationality of Bahrain, unless she informs the Minister of Interior of her intention of the same, providing that she is living with her husband in Bahrain for five years from the date of announcement of her intention and marriage does not cease to subsist by reason other than the death of her husband.

The Minister of Interior may redeem all or part of this period, and he may, during this span, deprive such woman the right of acquiring citizenship of Bahrain with a decision for sound reasons.

Article 2

Article No (11), shall be added to the Citizenship of Bahrain Act - 1963 of the following texts:

Claims of nationality

11. Repeated: Judgments which are issued concerning nationality or any of the conditions required by this law for a person to be of Bahrain nationality will not have any obligatory nature for Ministry of Interior except if the Ministry has been proceeding such claims.

Article 3

The Minister of Interior shall implement this Act and it shall come into force as from the date of issuance in the Official Gazette.

Prince of Bahrain State

Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifah