

On Amendments to the Legislation on Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

Introduction

On November 27, 2023 and January 4, 2024, two laws introducing amendments and supplements¹ to the Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia" ("**the Law**") came into force. A summary of the main changes to the Law is hereby presented.

New Grounds for Acquiring Citizenship Have Been Set Forth

First of all, the current edition of the Law has broadened the scope of grounds for acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. Thus, in addition to the previously existing regulations, citizenship of the Republic of Armenia can be acquired by a person

... who has a child **or a parent** who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia: (previously, the regulation referred exclusively to having a child who was a citizen of the Republic of Armenia)

whose parents (or one of them) previously had RA citizenship and **who has permanently resided in the Republic of Armenia during the last year in accordance with the law** (the bold text regulation was not available in the previous regulation).

Thus, apart from having a child who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, having a parent who is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia is also defined as a basis for acquiring citizenship.

Regarding the amendment set forth in the second paragraph, it is noteworthy that according to the amendment, **the requirement that a person 18 years of age should apply for citizenship of the Republic of Armenia within three years (until 21 years of age) is excluded** from the relevant article. Thus, according to current regulations, citizenship can be acquired on the basis of permanent residence in the Republic of Armenia for 1 year (without restrictions on the age of the applicant).

Regarding the Obligations of Persons who have Terminated the Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

According to the amendments to the law, for the persons whose citizenship of the Republic of Armenia has been terminated, a period has been defined to leave the territory of the Republic of Armenia or to legalize their residence in the country. Thus, according to the current regulations:

¹ Changes to the law can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

"Within a month after the decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia on the termination of the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia comes into force, a person whose citizenship of the Republic of Armenia has been terminated is obliged to apply for the legalization of his/her residence in the Republic of Armenia or to leave the territory of the Republic of Armenia in the manner prescribed by law".

It is noteworthy that, according to previously existing regulations, any person who was in the Republic of Armenia should have the right of legal residence in the Republic of Armenia, and in the case of staying in the Republic of Armenia after the termination of citizenship, he/she had to legalize his/her residence (for example, by obtaining residence status). With the amendment in question, **the terms for legalizing of residence have been specified².**

Extension of the Period for Applying for Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by a Certain Group of Persons

According to the amendments to the law, the period of possibility to be recognized as a citizen of the Republic of Armenia for ethnic Armenians having no citizenship, permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia or citizens of other former USSR republics who are not foreign citizens, permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia has been extended until December 31, 2026. Previous regulations provided for such a period until December 31, 2023.

Current as of 06.02.2024.

² It must be taken into account that in case of failure to perform one of these two actions within the specified period, administrative liability arises as provided for in Part 1 of Article 201 of the Code of the Republic of Armenia on Administrative Offenses according to which, the residence of foreigners in the Republic of Armenia without a valid visa or residence status or with invalid documents... entails a fine in the amount of 50,000 AMD drams to 100,000 AMD.