Your Guide to Citizenship of Saint Kitts and Nevis

A plain-language handbook to the pathways to Citizenship in the Constitution; the Citizenship Act, Cap. 1.05; the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2026; and the 2026 Regulations

Ministry of National Security, Citizenship and Immigration • Basseterre • November 2026

Welcome home

Whether you were born in Basseterre or Charlestown, in Brooklyn, Bermuda, Birmingham or Toronto, this handbook is for you. It explains, in everyday language, who is a citizen of Saint Kitts and Nevis, how to prove it, and how to apply if you are not yet a citizen but have the right to become one.

Each pathway is a “door”. Find your door, see what you need to bring, and follow the steps. Ministry staff and our missions abroad can help you along the way.

A guide, not the law

If this handbook and the Act or Regulations ever differ, the Act and Regulations prevail.

Where to read more

Constitution, Chapter VIII (ss. 90–95); Citizenship Act, Cap. 1.05 (as amended 2026); the Citizenship Regulations of 2026 (adult applications) and 2024 (marriage and child).

We are here to help

Ask at the Ministry in Basseterre or any Saint Kitts and Nevis mission abroad. You do not need an agent.

Quick index: Who is a citizen (p. 3) • Find your door (p. 5) • Doors 1–10 and worked examples (pp. 6–19) • British citizen and BDT citizen explained (pp. 21–23) • How to apply (p. 25) • Fees (p. 28)

Who is a citizen of Saint Kitts and Nevis?

Our Constitution, in force since Independence on 19 September 1983, recognises four ways of being a citizen.

Citizens at Independence

Section 90 of the Constitution

People who were already British on 18 September 1983 and were born, registered or naturalised here — or whose parent or grandparent was.

You are already a citizen. Ask for a certificate (Door 1).

Citizens from birth

Section 91 of the Constitution

Everyone born in Saint Kitts and Nevis on or after 19 September 1983, and children born abroad to a parent born here before Independence.

You are already a citizen. Ask for a certificate (Door 2).

Citizens by registration

Section 92 of the Constitution and the Act

Adult descendants (new section 3A), spouses, long-term Commonwealth residents, former citizens, minor children and others the law names.

You have a right to apply. Register (Doors 3–10).

Citizens by naturalisation

Section 6 of the Act

Long-resident people with no family connection who ask the Minister, in his discretion, to grant citizenship.

Apply on Form N.1. Not covered in detail here.

Read more: Constitution of Saint Christopher and Nevis, sections 90 to 95; Citizenship Act, Cap. 1.05, sections 3, 3A and 6.

What changed in 2026?

On 23 October 2026 the National Assembly passed the Saint Christopher and Nevis Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2026. It adds a new section 3A to the Citizenship Act and opens two new doors for the sons and daughters of our diaspora.

The grandparent pathway — section 3A(1)

An adult born abroad whose grandparent was born, registered or naturalised in Saint Kitts and Nevis before Independence may now register as a citizen. The connection no longer has to run through a parent who held a passport.

The parent pathway — section 3A(2)

An adult born abroad whose parent is a citizen — at Independence, from birth (including a parent born here after 1983), or registered under section 3(2) — may now register, even though the window to register as a child under section 92 has closed.

2 Nov 2026

Applications open

18+

Adults only — children of citizens still use Door 8

XCD 1,350

One all-inclusive fee: application, oath and certificate

Read more: Citizenship Act, section 3A; Citizenship (Adult Applications and Forms) Regulations, 2026, Part III (regulations 8 to 22) and Schedule 2.

Find your door

Start with the question on the left and follow the arrow to the door that fits you. Most people fit one door; if you fit two, you may choose either.

Were you born in Saint Kitts and Nevis before 19 September 1983?	You are likely a citizen at Independence (if you were lawfully a British citizen on 18 Sept 1983).	**Door 1 • Form C.1**
Were you born in Saint Kitts and Nevis on or after 19 September 1983?	You are likely a citizen from birth.	**Door 2 • Form C.2**
Born abroad — was your parent born here before Independence?	You are likely a citizen from birth under section 90(c) or 91(b).	**Door 2 • Form C.2**
Born abroad, aged 18+ — is a parent of yours a citizen (at Independence, from birth, or under s. 3(2))?	New: you may register under the parent pathway.	**Door 4 • Form D.2**
Born abroad, aged 18+ — was a grandparent born, registered or naturalised here before Independence?	New: you may register under the grandparent pathway.	**Door 3 • Form D.1**
Are you married to a citizen, a long-term Commonwealth resident, a former citizen, or the parent of a child under 18 who is not yet registered?	You may register under section 92.	**Doors 5–8**
Born here before Independence but not British at the time, or stateless?	You may register under section 3(2) or 3(6) of the Act.	**Doors 9–10 • Forms R.5–R.6**

Note that all doors are subject to verification of lineage documents. Not sure? The Ministry can issue a certificate of citizenship in case of doubt (Form C.3, section 12 of the Act) — see page 20.

Door 1 — Citizen at Independence

You became a citizen automatically on 19 September 1983. You do not apply for citizenship; you ask the Ministry to confirm it with a certificate.

Door 1

You qualify if, on 18 September 1983, you were British* and…

- you were born in Saint Kitts and Nevis (s. 90(a));
- you were registered or naturalised here (s. 90(b));
- you were born abroad to a parent, or grandparent, who was born, registered or naturalised here (s. 90(c), (f)); or
- you fit another paragraph of section 90 (e.g. certain spouses).

Bring

- Your full birth certificate (showing your parents)
- Passport or national ID
- Two passport photographs
- If born abroad: your parent's (and, if needed, grandparent's) Saint Kitts and Nevis birth, registration or naturalisation certificate, and marriage certificates for any change of name
- Evidence you were British* on 18 Sept 1983 — see page 22

Law: Constitution, s. 90

Form: C.1 (regulation 23)

Fee: XCD 150 (500 via marriage, s. 90(d))

** "British" here means a British citizen, British Dependent Territories citizen, or citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies — explained on pages 21 and 22. If you were born here, your birth certificate is normally enough.*

Read more: Constitution, section 90; Regulations 2026, regulations 23 and 24 and Form C.1.

Door 2 — Citizen from birth

You have been a citizen since the day you were born. A certificate of citizenship is useful for a first passport, for school and work abroad, and to pass citizenship on to your own children.

Door 2

You qualify if…

- you were born in Saint Kitts and Nevis on or after 19 September 1983 (s. 91(a)); or
- you were born abroad, and at your birth a parent of yours was a citizen because he or she was born in Saint Kitts and Nevis before Independence (s. 91(b)); or
- you were born abroad while a citizen parent was serving the Government overseas (s. 91(c)).

Bring

- Your full birth certificate
- Passport or national ID
- Two passport photographs
- If born abroad: your parent's Saint Kitts and Nevis birth certificate, your parents' marriage certificate if names changed, and evidence the parent was British on 18 Sept 1983

Law: Constitution, s. 91
Form: C.2 (regulation 23)
Fee: XCD 150 (all-inclusive)

Watch this

Was your parent born here after 19 Sept 1983 and you born abroad? You are not covered by s. 91(b). Use Door 4 (Form D.2) once you are 18, or Door 8 while under 18.

Read more: Constitution, section 91; Regulations 2026, regulations 23 and 24 and Form C.2.

Door 3 — The grandparent pathway

New in 2026. If your grandmother or grandfather came from Saint Kitts and Nevis, you can come home — even if your parent never held our passport.

Door 3

You qualify if…

- you were born on or after 19 September 1983;
- you are 18 or over; and
- at least one grandparent was born in Saint Kitts and Nevis (s. 90(a)), or was registered, naturalised or adopted here before Independence (s. 90(b)), and was British on 18 September 1983 — or would have been, but for death.

Bring — the three links in your chain

- 1. Your grandparent's Saint Kitts and Nevis birth certificate (or registration / naturalisation certificate)
- 2. Your parent's birth certificate, naming that grandparent
- 3. Your own birth certificate, naming that parent
- Plus: marriage or name-change certificates, passport, photos and police certificates (page 24). No death certificates are required.

Law: Citizenship Act, s. 3A(1)
Form: D.1 (regulation 9)
Fee: XCD 1,350 (all-inclusive)

Good to know

Grandparents who became citizens only by marriage registration (s. 92), naturalisation, or investment do not count as the qualifying ancestor — regulation 8(4).

Read more: Citizenship Act, section 3A(1) and (3); Regulations 2026, regulations 8 to 12, Schedule 2 and Form D.1.

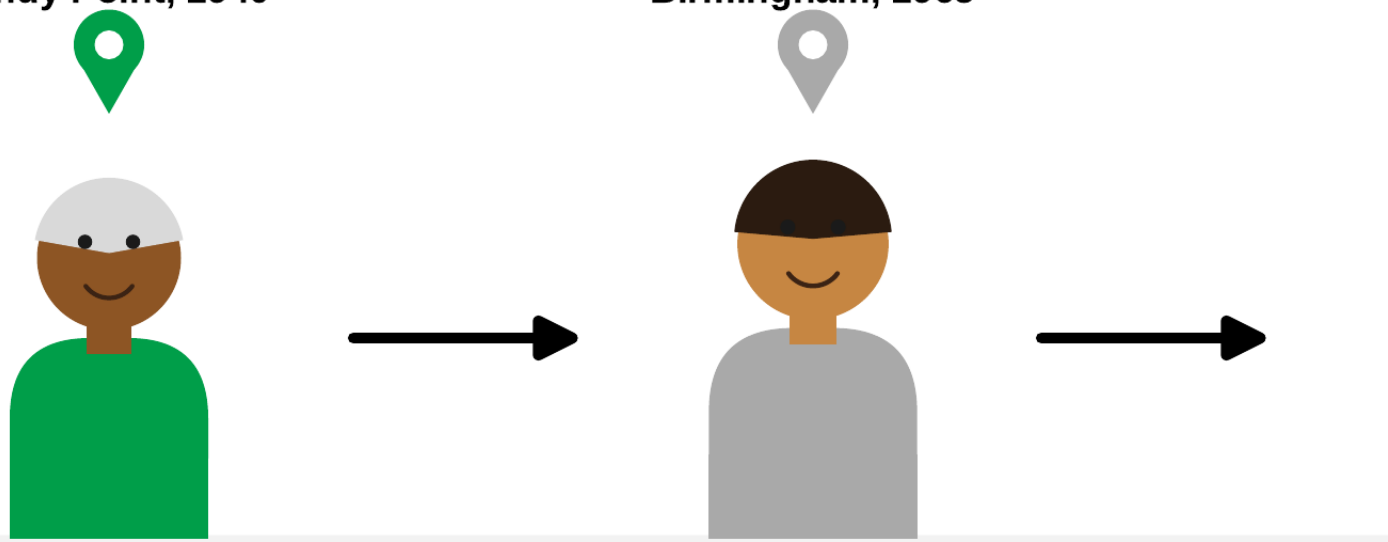
The grandparent pathway

Your grandparent was born here — your parent never held our passport

Sandy Point, 1940

Birmingham, 1965

Leeds, 1992



YES

you qualify

Grandparent pathway

Grandfather

Born here • Citizen at Independence

Constitution s. 90(a)

Father

Never registered • no passport needed

The link in the chain

You

Adult • Not yet a citizen

Register — Act s. 3A(1)

FORM D.1 **FEE** XCD 1,350 all-in **BRING** Three birth certificates linking you to your grandparent **OPENS** 2 Nov 2026

Door 4 — The parent pathway

Door 4

New in 2026. For adults born abroad to a Kittitian or Nevisian parent who were never registered as children. You must be 18 or over and born on or after 19 September 1983. Your parent must fit one of three descriptions:

A Citizen at Independence

Your parent was British on 18 Sept 1983 and was born here (s. 90(a)), registered or naturalised here (s. 90(b)), or born abroad to a parent or grandparent from here (s. 90(c), (f)).

Example: your mother was born in Sandy Point in 1960 and emigrated to Toronto; you were born there in 1990.

B Citizen from birth

Your parent was born in Saint Kitts and Nevis on or after 19 Sept 1983 (s. 91(a)), or abroad to a parent born here (s. 91(b)), or abroad in Government service (s. 91(c)).

Example: your father was born in Charlestown in 1985, moved to Miami; you were born there in 2006.

C Registered under s. 3(2)

Your parent was born here before Independence, was not British at the time, and later registered as a citizen under section 3(2) of the Act.

Example: your parent, born here in 1970 to non-British parents, registered in 1995; you were born abroad in 1998.

Law: Citizenship Act, s. 3A(2)
Form: D.2 (regulation 9)
Fee: XCD 1,350 (all-inclusive)

Bring

Your birth certificate naming the parent; the parent's birth (or registration) certificate; where the parent qualified through a grandparent, that grandparent's certificate too; name-change certificates; passport, photos, police certificates. No death certificates are required.

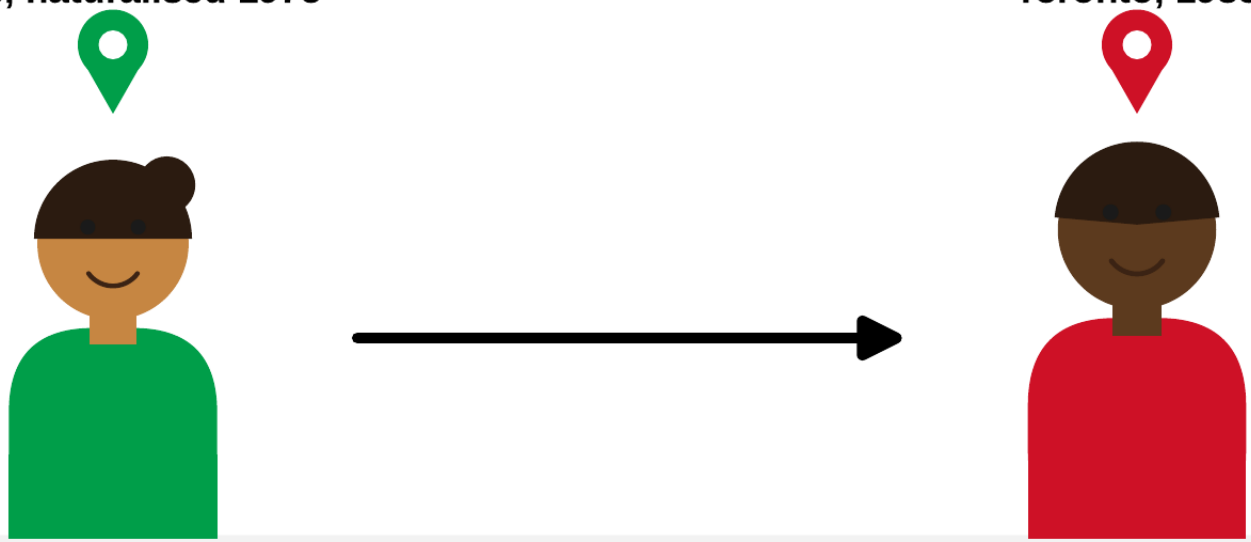
Read more: Citizenship Act, section 3A(2) and (3); Regulations 2026, regulations 8 to 12, Schedule 2 (which lists the documents for each ground) and Form D.2.

The parent pathway

Your parent is a citizen — you were born abroad and are now an adult

Nevis, naturalised 1975

Toronto, 1988



YES

you qualify

Parent pathway

Mother

Came from Dominica • naturalised here before Independence

Constitution s. 90(b)

You

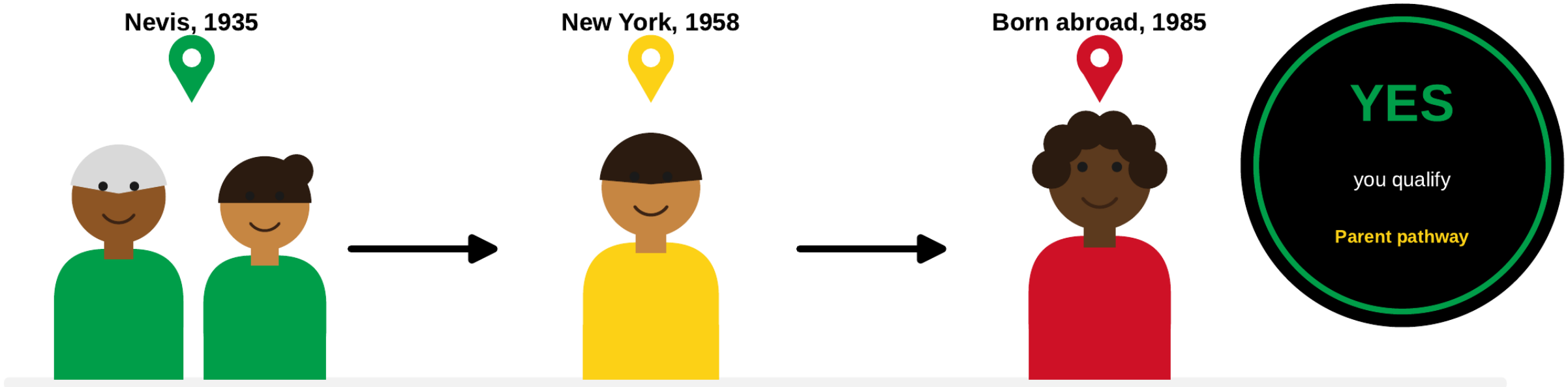
Adult • Not a citizen at birth (s. 91(b) needs a parent born here)

Register — Act s. 3A(2)(a)

FORM	D.2	FEE	XCD 1,350 all-in	BRING	Your birth certificate + mother's naturalisation certificate	PARENT	Citizen under s. 90, 91 or 3(2)	OPENS	2 Nov 2026

Do I qualify?

Grandparents from Nevis • parent born in New York • you, born abroad in 1985



Grandparents

Married • Citizens at Independence

Constitution s. 90(a)

Mother

British through her father • Citizen at Independence

Constitution s. 90(c)

You

Adult • Not yet a citizen

Register — Act s. 3A(2)(a)

FORM	D.2	FEE	XCD 1,350 all-in	BRING	Three birth certificates + grandparents' marriage certificate	OPENS	2 Nov 2026

Do I qualify?

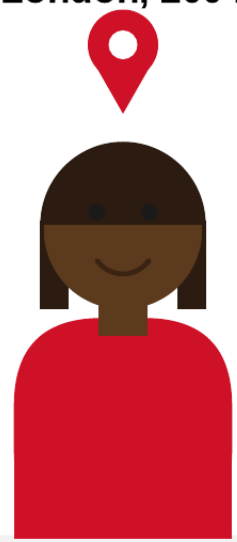
Parent born in St Kitts after Independence • you, born in London in 2004

St Kitts, 1984





London, 2004



YES

you qualify

Parent pathway

Father

Born here after Independence • Citizen from birth

Constitution s. 91(a)

You

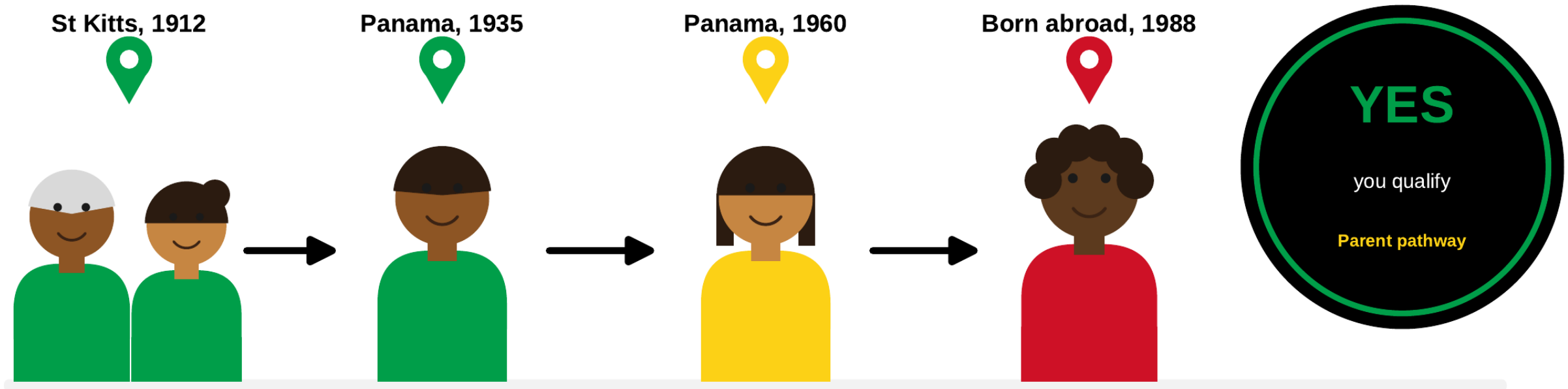
Adult • Child registration closed at 18

Register — Act s. 3A(2)(b)

FORM	D.2	FEE	XCD 1,350 all-in	BRING	Your birth certificate + your father's St Kitts birth certificate	OPENS	2 Nov 2026

Do I qualify?

Great-grandparents from St Kitts who moved to Panama • grandfather and mother born in Panama • you, born abroad in 1988



Great-grandparents

Never naturalised • kept British passports

Constitution s. 90(a)

Grandfather

British through his married father

Constitution s. 90(c)

Mother

Birth registered at the British consulate

Constitution s. 90(f)

You

Adult • Not yet a citizen

Register — Act s. 3A(2)(a)

FORM D.2 **FEE** XCD 1,350 all-in **BRING** Four birth certificates • marriage certificates • consular registration of your mother's birth **OPENS** 2 Nov 2026

Proving your family line (Doors 3 and 4)

Think of your application as a chain. Every link must be an official document; the Ministry cannot accept a family story on its own (regulation 10(3)).



Qualifying ancestor

Birth certificate issued here — or certificate of registration / naturalisation, or adoption order

Your parent

Full birth certificate naming the ancestor

You

Full birth certificate naming your parent

Also in every case

- Marriage certificate, deed poll or adoption order for every change of name in the line
- Your current passport or national ID
- Two photographs (last six months)
- Police certificates — page 24
- No death certificates are required

If a record is missing (regulation 11)

A registry “no record found” letter plus church, school, hospital or land records, a sworn statement from someone with personal knowledge (Form D.4), or a DNA test from an approved laboratory may be accepted. A sworn statement alone is never enough.

Births outside marriage and adoptions

Where a link runs through a father who was not married to the mother, the Ministry may ask for proof of paternity. Where someone was adopted, bring the adoption order instead of the birth certificate for that link.

Read more: Regulations 2026, regulations 10 and 11, and Schedule 2. Certified copies, apostilles and translations: regulations 36 and 37.

Doors 5 to 8 — Registration under section 92

These doors have existed since 1983 and every one carries a security review. Spouses (Door 5) and children (Door 8) apply on the Ministry's forms under the Citizenship (Marriage and Child Applications) Regulations, 2024, with an affidavit of support from the citizen. Doors 6 and 7 use Forms R.2 and R.3 under the 2026 Regulations.

Door 5

Spouse of a citizen

s. 92(1)(a) • 2024 Regulations • XCD 1,000 • Ministry form

Married to a citizen? Apply with your marriage certificate, your spouse's proof of citizenship and your spouse's affidavit of support. Police certificates for the last three years.

Door 6

Long-term Commonwealth resident

s. 92(1)(b); Act s. 3(3) • XCD 2,000 CARICOM / 3,500 other • Form R.2

A Commonwealth citizen ordinarily resident here, or in Government service, for fourteen years. Bring proof of residence for the whole period.

Door 7

Former citizen

s. 92(1)(c), (d) • XCD 150 • Form R.3

You were a citizen and renounced, or you would have been a citizen at Independence but for a renunciation. Bring the record of renunciation.

Door 8

Child under 18 of a citizen

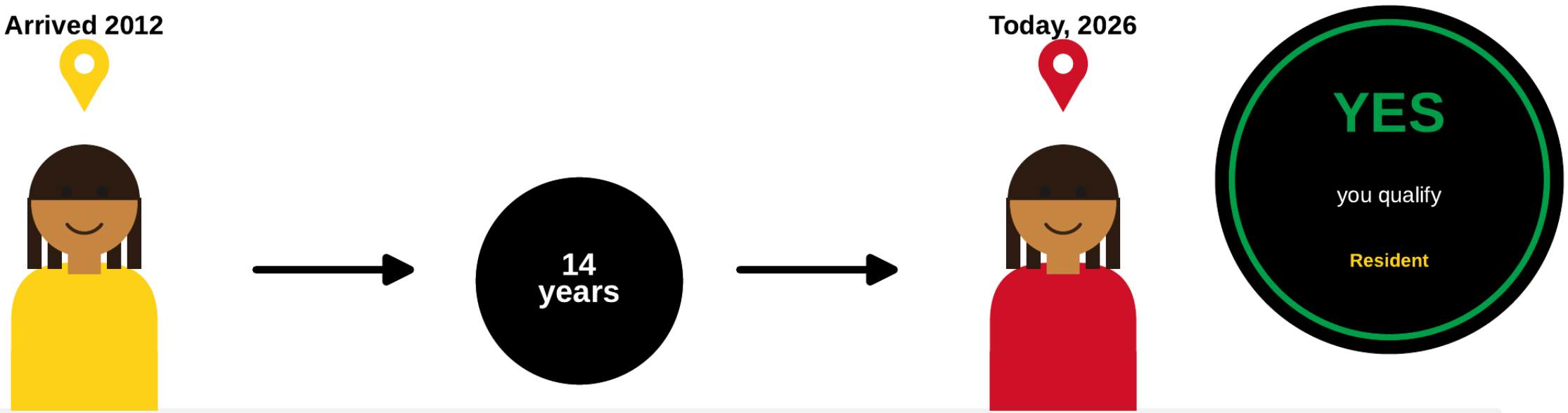
s. 92(1)(g) • 2024 Regulations • XCD 1,000 • Ministry form

A parent or guardian applies for the child, with the child's birth certificate, the parent's proof of citizenship and affidavit of support. The Ministry must receive it before the child turns 18; after that, use Door 4.

Read more: Constitution, section 92; Regulations 2026, regulations 26 to 29 and Forms R.2, R.3 and R.7; Citizenship (Marriage and Child Applications) Regulations, 2024 (S.R.O. 21 of 2024).

Long-term Commonwealth resident

A Commonwealth citizen who has made Saint Kitts and Nevis home for 14 years



You

Commonwealth citizen • ordinarily resident

Lawfully resident

14 years

Ordinarily resident, or in Government service

You

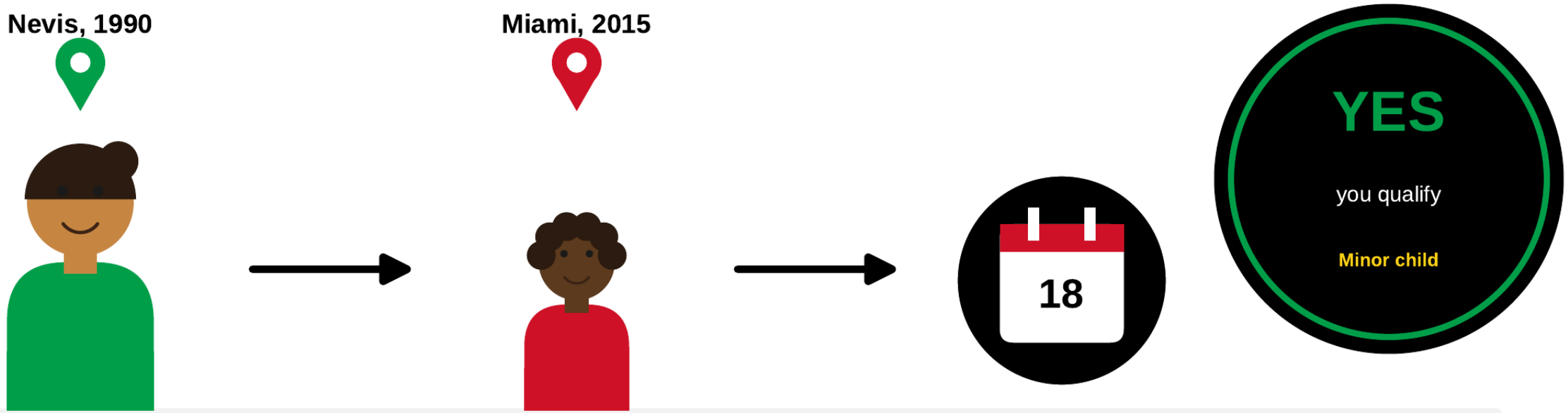
Good character • intend to stay

Register — Constitution s. 92(1)(b)

FORM R.2 **FEE** XCD 2,000 CARICOM • XCD 3,500 other Commonwealth **BRING** Proof of 14 years' residence • police certificates

A child of a citizen

Your son or daughter was born abroad and is under 18



You, the parent

Citizen

Constitution s. 91(a)

Your child

Under 18 • born abroad

Register — Constitution s. 92(1)(g)

Apply before 18

The application must reach the Ministry first

FORM 2024 Regulations form **FEE** XCD 1,000 **BRING** Child's birth certificate • proof of your citizenship • affidavit of support **AT 18+** Use the parent pathway

Doors 9 and 10 — Born here, not British in 1983

Not everyone born in Saint Kitts and Nevis before 1983 was British. If your parents were, for example, Dominican or Dutch nationals and you did not hold British nationality on 19 September 1983, the Act gives you a route.

Door 9 — Section 3(2) of the Act • Form R.5 • XCD 1,000

- You were born in Saint Kitts and Nevis before 19 September 1983, and
- on that date you were not a British citizen, BDT citizen or citizen of the UK and Colonies (for example because you held another nationality, or lost British status before 1949).
- Registration is at the Minister's discretion. Bring your birth certificate and evidence of the nationality you held in 1983.

Door 10 — Section 3(6) of the Act • Form R.6 • XCD 1,000

- You were born in Saint Kitts and Nevis and you have no nationality at all (you are stateless).
- Bring your birth certificate and evidence that no other country recognises you as its national.
- Saint Kitts and Nevis will not leave a child of its soil without a country.

For Doors 9 and 10 a further XCD 500 is payable for the certificate of registration (Form R.7).

Important: if you became a citizen of another country after 1948 (for example by naturalising in the United States), you did not lose your British status. You are most likely a citizen at Independence — use Door 1, not Door 9. *See page 22.*

Read more: Citizenship Act, section 3(2) and 3(6); Regulations 2026, regulations 30 and 31 and Forms R.5 and R.6.

Other applications you may need

Naturalisation

Section 6 of the Act • Form N.1 • XCD 4,000

For long-term residents with no family or marriage connection. Granted at the Minister's discretion after residence, language and good-character requirements are met.

Certificate in case of doubt

Section 12 of the Act • Form C.3 • XCD 1,000

If you are unsure whether you are already a citizen, ask the Minister to certify your status. Useful for older or complex family histories.

Renunciation

Section 7 of the Act • Form REN.1 • XCD 500 to register the declaration + XCD 650 for the certificate

An adult who holds, or is about to acquire, another nationality may give up citizenship of Saint Kitts and Nevis by registered declaration. Think carefully: you may later need Door 7 to return.

Replacement certificates

Regulations 21 and 29 • XCD 500

Lost your certificate? Apply at the Ministry with proof of identity and other related documents.

Read more: Citizenship Act, sections 6, 7 and 12; Regulations 2026, regulations 21, 25, 32 and 33 and Forms N.1, C.3 and REN. 1.

British citizen and BDT citizen, explained

Section 90 of our Constitution asks whether a person was a British citizen or a British Dependent Territories citizen (BDT citizen) on 18 September 1983 — the day before Independence. Here is where those labels came from.

1 Jan 1949

Citizen of the UK and Colonies

The British Nationality Act 1948 made everyone born in the UK or a colony — including Saint Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla — a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies ("CUKC"). Children born abroad got it through a father who was married to their mother.

1 Jan 1983

CUKC splits in two

The British Nationality Act 1981 divided CUKCs. Those connected to the UK itself became British citizens. Those connected to a colony that was still dependent — like Saint Kitts and Nevis — became British Dependent Territories citizens (BDTCs).

19 Sept 1983

Independence

Our Constitution took effect. Section 90 turned the British citizens and BDTCs with a Saint Kitts and Nevis connection into citizens of the new Federation — automatically, overnight.

In short: a BDT citizen on 18 September 1983 was a person whose British nationality came from a colony that was still British — which is exactly what Saint Kitts and Nevis was until Independence Day. (BDT citizens were renamed "British Overseas Territories citizens" in 2002.)

Was my ancestor British on 18 September 1983?

Born in Saint Kitts and Nevis before Independence?

- The Regulations presume YES. Your Saint Kitts and Nevis birth certificate is accepted as sufficient evidence (regulation 10(4)).
- The presumption fails only if the person: registered a renunciation of British nationality; was deprived of it by the UK; or lost British subject status by naturalising in a foreign country before 1 January 1949.
- Becoming a citizen of the USA, Canada or any other country from 1949 onwards did NOT take away British nationality. Nor did living abroad for decades (regulation 10(5)).

Born outside Saint Kitts and Nevis before Independence?

- Born in the UK or another British colony at the time (e.g. Bermuda, Anguilla, the Bahamas before 1973)? You acquired CUKC by birth there — bring the birth certificate (regulation 10(6)).
- Born in a foreign country (USA, Curaçao, Panama, Dominican Republic) or an independent Commonwealth country (Canada)? You acquired CUKC only through a father who was a CUKC and was married to your mother; a second-generation birth abroad also needed consular registration within a year.
- Proof: a British or BDT passport valid on that date; a UK registration or naturalisation certificate; a UK Home Office letter; or the father's SKN birth certificate with the parents' marriage certificate.

If you cannot prove it

A statutory declaration that the person held British nationality on 18 September 1983 will be accepted unless the Ministry has a specific reason for doubt (regulation 10(7)). A lawyer's opinion on the British statutes may be furnished but is not required (regulation 10(8)). Where a line cannot be proved through the parent, the grandparent pathway (Door 3) may still be open.

Read more: Regulations 2026, regulation 10(4) to (8) and Schedule 2; British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1914, s. 13; British Nationality Act 1948, ss. 4, 5, 12, 19, 20; British Nationality Act 1981, ss. 11 and 23.

Was my ancestor British on 18 September 1983?

Section 90 asks one question about the day before Independence. Legal advice is recommended for complex histories.

1 Jan 1949

Everyone born in the UK or a colony becomes a Citizen of the UK and Colonies

1 Jan 1983

CUKC splits: colony-connected people become British Dependent Territories citizens

19 Sept 1983

Independence: British citizens and BDT citizens from here become our citizens

Born in St Kitts or Nevis





Born outside St Kitts and Nevis



Before Independence

Birth certificate is enough

PRESUMED British — reg. 10(4)

The question

British citizen or BDT citizen that day?

Constitution s. 90

Before Independence

Show how British status was acquired

PROVE it — reg. 10(5)

RECOMMENDED: Not sure? Emigrated before 1949, born abroad, or a renunciation in the family? Consider a lawyer's opinion under the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1914 and the British Nationality Acts 1948 and 1981. It is not required — but it can save time if the Ministry has questions.

THE PRESUMPTIONS

Born here = British

A birth certificate issued here is accepted as proof of British status on 18 Sept 1983 — unless there is evidence to the contrary.

Living abroad changed nothing

Decades in New York, Toronto or London, or becoming a US or Canadian citizen after 1948, did NOT remove British status.

Only three things break it

- a registered renunciation
- deprivation by the UK
- naturalising in a foreign country BEFORE 1 January 1949

If papers are missing

A statutory declaration that the ancestor was British that day is accepted unless the Ministry has a specific reason for doubt — reg. 10(6).

The security review and good character

Every registration application — new and old doors alike — is checked before the Minister decides. This protects the value of the passport you are about to hold.

What is checked

- Identity and the genuineness of every document
- Criminal record, through police certificates and approved regional and international law-enforcement bodies
- Any involvement in activity that would threaten defence, public safety or public order
- Declared bankruptcy (the Minister MAY, not must, refuse — reg. 17(4))

Police certificates (reg. 12)

- From every country — and every state or province of a federal country — where you have lived one year or more since age 16
- And from the country of your citizenship
- Issued within the last six months
- If a country will not issue one to you, say so and swear a declaration of your record

Advanced due diligence (reg. 16)

- In some cases the Minister may commission a deeper, independent background check
- You will be told before it is commissioned and of the cost, which you pay
- You may be invited to an interview (reg. 14)

Be honest. A false statement is an offence under section 16 of the Act, and a registration obtained by fraud or concealment can be revoked under section 8. Read more: Act, s. 3A(4) to (7); Regulations 2026, regulations 12 to 17 and 28.

How to apply — step by step

1 Find your door

Use page 5. If in doubt, ask the Ministry or a mission.

2 Gather your documents

Originals or certified copies. Foreign documents may need an apostille and a certified translation (regs 36, 37).

3 Complete the form

Fill it in yourself, then sign before an authorised witness — Notary, JP, Commissioner for Oaths or SKN consular officer (reg. 39).

4 Pay the fee

In EC dollars or the equivalent. Keep your receipt. Fees are not refunded if the answer is no.

5 Lodge it

At the Ministry in Basseterre, the Federal Office in Charlestown, any SKN Embassy, High Commission or Consulate, or the online portal when launched (reg. 34).

6 Wait for the review

You will get a written acknowledgement within 30 days. If something is missing you get a list and 90 days to supply it.

7 Take the oath — welcome home

If approved, take the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance within six months, here or at a mission. Your certificate follows; then apply for your passport.

Read more: Regulations 2026, regulations 9, 13, 20 and 34 to 39.

What to expect, and when

30 days

Written acknowledgement of your application (reg. 13(1))

90 days

Target for a complete application with clean checks to reach the Minister (reg. 17(2))

6 months

If still pending, you get a written update with the reason (reg. 17(3))

2 years

The target for every decision under section 3A, as far as reasonably practicable (reg. 17(1))

If the answer is yes

You receive a written notice and an invitation to take the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance (Form O.1) within six months. You become a citizen on the day you are entered in the Register; your Certificate of Registration (Form D.3 or R.7) follows, and with it you may apply for a passport.

If the answer is no

You receive written reasons, unless the reason is a confidential security matter (reg. 18). If you believe a fact was wrong — a mistaken record, the wrong person — you may ask for reconsideration within 60 days, at no charge (reg. 19). The courts' supervision of the lawfulness of decisions is unaffected.

Read more: Regulations 2026, regulations 13, 17 to 21 and 38.

The oath, your certificate and dual nationality

The Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance

A short promise of loyalty to Saint Kitts and Nevis, set out in the Third Schedule to the Act. You may swear it or affirm it. Take it in Basseterre before a Judge, Magistrate, Notary or JP, or abroad before a Saint Kitts and Nevis consular officer. Miss the six-month window and the approval lapses (reg. 20).

Your certificate

Your Certificate of Registration (or, for Doors 1 and 2, your Certificate of Citizenship) is the document a passport office, school, employer or land registry will ask for. Keep it safe; a replacement costs XCD 500. Citizens are not required to hold an Alien Landholding Licence.

Two passports? Saint Kitts and Nevis says yes — but check the other country

Section 93 of the Constitution allows our citizens to hold another nationality, so you do not have to give up anything to come home. Some other countries, however, treat voluntarily acquiring a new citizenship as giving up theirs (the Netherlands, for example, in many cases). The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis gives no advice on another country's nationality law — please check before you apply. Every form asks you to confirm that you have done so.

Read more: Constitution, section 93; Citizenship Act, section 3A(8) and (9) and Third Schedule; Regulations 2026, regulations 20, 21, 38 and Form O.1.

Fees at a glance

Door	What	Form	Fee (XCD)
1	Certificate of citizenship — citizen at Independence (s. 90)	C.1	150 (500 if claimed through marriage, s. 90(d))
2	Certificate of citizenship — citizen from birth (s. 91)	C.2	150
3	Registration — grandparent pathway (s. 3A(1)) — includes oath and certificate	D.1	1,350
4	Registration — parent pathway (s. 3A(2)) — includes oath and certificate	D.2	1,350
5	Registration — spouse of a citizen (s. 92(1)(a)) — 2024 Regulations	Ministry form	1,000
6	Registration — Commonwealth citizen resident 14 years (s. 92(1)(b))	R.2	2,000 CARICOM • 3,500 other
7	Registration — former citizen (s. 92(1)(c), (d))	R.3	150
8	Registration — child under 18 of a citizen (s. 92(1)(g)) — 2024 Regulations	Ministry form	1,000
9	Registration — born here before Independence, not British (s. 3(2))	R.5	1,000
10	Registration — stateless person born here (s. 3(6))	R.6	1,000
6, 7, 9, 10	Certificate of registration, where not included in the application fee	R.7	500
—	Naturalisation (s. 6) • Certificate in case of doubt (s. 12)	N.1 • C.3	4,000 • 1,000
—	Renunciation: registration of declaration • certificate • Replacement of any certificate	REN.1 • REN.2 • —	500 • 650 • 500
—	Advanced due diligence, where required • Request for reconsideration	—	At cost • Nil

Registration fees are not refunded if an application is refused. Fees are payable in Eastern Caribbean dollars or the equivalent in any legal-tender currency, into the Consolidated Fund (reg. 35), and are collected by the Ministry of National Security, Citizenship and Immigration. This table is a summary; Schedule 3 to the 2026 Regulations and the 2024 Regulations are the authority.

Where to apply and key dates

In Saint Kitts and Nevis

Ministry of National Security, Citizenship and Immigration Secretariat — Liverpool Row, Basseterre.

Telephone: (869) 467-1209
Email: NationalSecurity@gov.kn

Federal Office, Charlestown, Nevis.

Abroad

Any Embassy, High Commission or Consulate of Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the Federal Office in Charlestown, Nevis, will receive your application, check it is complete, certify your document copies and send it to Basseterre. The mission does not decide; the Ministry does.

Online

An electronic portal is being established. When live, you may lodge online and present originals or certified copies at the Ministry or a mission afterwards (reg. 34(1)(d)).

23 Oct 2026

Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2026 passed by the National Assembly

2 Nov 2026

Citizenship (Adult Applications and Forms) Regulations, 2026 published in the Official Gazette

2 Nov 2026

Applications under section 3A (Doors 3 and 4) open at the Ministry

Applications under the other doors are received at any time. Date of receipt is the date the application reaches the Ministry in Basseterre (reg. 34(2)).

Words you will meet

Independence Day

19 September 1983. “Before Independence” means before that date.

Citizen by registration

Someone who became a citizen by applying and being entered in a register — including under the new section 3A.

Qualifying ancestor

The parent or grandparent whose citizenship your application relies on (Doors 3 and 4).

CUKC

Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies — the single British nationality from 1949 to 1982.

BDT citizen (BDTC)

British Dependent Territories citizen — from 1 January 1983, a CUKC connected to a colony that was still British, such as Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Full birth certificate

One that shows the names of the parents, not just the child.

Certified copy

A copy stamped as true by a Notary, Commissioner for Oaths, JP or SKN consular officer.

Apostille

An international stamp proving a foreign public document is genuine (Hague Convention).

Statutory declaration

A written statement sworn before an authorised person; a false one is an offence.

Mission

A Saint Kitts and Nevis Embassy, High Commission or Consulate abroad.

Full definitions: Citizenship Act, section 2; Regulations 2026, regulation 3.

Welcome home.

Wherever you were born, if Saint Kitts and Nevis is in your family, there is a door here for you.

This handbook is a guide only and is not legal advice. The Constitution of Saint Christopher and Nevis, the Saint Christopher and Nevis Citizenship Act, Cap. 1.05 (as amended by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2026), the Saint Christopher and Nevis Citizenship (Adult Applications and Forms) Regulations, 2026 and the Saint Christopher and Nevis Citizenship (Marriage and Child Applications) Regulations, 2024 are the law. Published by the Ministry of National Security, Citizenship and Immigration, Basseterre, November 2026.