

FAQs on Renunciation/Surrendering of Indian Citizenship

Q. What is a Renunciation/Surrender Certificate?

A: A Renunciation/Surrender Certificate is issued to applicants who renounce Indian nationality and surrender their passport at Consulate after acquiring foreign nationality.

Q. How to apply for Renunciation/Surrender of Indian Citizenship Certificate?

A. Please follow below the following steps for Renunciation application:

a. Visit the website of BLS International Services Inc., our outsourced agency, https://blsindia-canada.com/renunciation_ppt.php and fill online Renunciation application.

b. Take a print of the completed online application and submit physical copy of application along with required documents and fee to nearest BLS center on appointment only **or** Mail/Post (Please check their website to ensure walk-in is open):

BLS International Services Ltd., Unit 201-8140 120th Street, Surrey, BC, V3W 3N3

Processing Time: Once the application, complete in all respects, is received in the Consulate, it will take 1-2 weeks depending upon the volume of applications (excluding mailing time to/from BLS International).

Q. What is the difference between Surrender Certificate & Renunciation Certificate?

A. Both are the same. Renunciation is applicable for those applicants who have acquired foreign nationality on or after 01 June 2010. Surrender is applicable to those who acquired foreign nationality before 01 June 2010.

Once you acquire foreign citizenship you have to surrender your last held Indian passport to Indian Consulate for cancellation. Consulate will cancel it and return to you along with a **Renunciation/Surrender Certificate** issued by Consulate.

Q. What should I do if I lost/misplaced my last Indian Passport? Or what is a Renunciation Declaration Certificate?

A. Those who have misplaced **or** lost their last Indian passport and hence do not have their Indian passport which they can surrender for cancellation can apply based on submission of a sworn affidavit on loss of Indian Passport along with copy of the lost passport and other required documents.

Q. I have lost my last held Indian passport; I do not have a copy and I do not remember the particulars of the lost passport. Can I still apply for a renunciation/Surrender Certificate?

No. Particulars of the last held Indian passport, with documentary evidence such as entry in the Landing Paper is essential to make a sworn affidavit for applying for Surrender Certificate.

Q. What proof of Indian Origin can I provide if I don't have my Indian Passport?

A. If you do not have a copy of your Indian passport, you can provide at least 2 different documents that provide sufficient evidence that the applicant has held Indian Citizenship like:

1. Original Notarized Affidavit of Lost Indian Passport with Indian passport details on it. (you will find this information on your Landing paper)
2. Copy of Landing Paper
3. Copy of Citizenship Certificate/Card
4. Copy of Last held Indian Passport (If Available)

The decision to whether accept this type of document as proof of Indian Citizenship will be made by the Embassy/Consular Officer and will be FINAL in such cases.

Q. Can I hold my Indian passport even after acquiring Foreign Citizenship?

A. The Indian Citizenship Act does **NOT allow dual citizenship**. Holding an Indian passport **or** acquiring an Indian Passport **or Traveling** on an Indian passport after acquisition of foreign citizenship constitutes a cognizable offense under the Indian Passport Act and attracts penalties and imprisonment or both.

Q. Documents required submitting for Renunciation/Surrender of Indian Citizenship Certificate?

A. Applicant needs to submit following documents:

- Last held Indian Passport
- Copy of Citizenship Certificate
- Copy of Current valid Passport
- Copy of Address proof

Q: My passport has expired; can I get Renunciation/Surrender Certificate for the same?

A: Yes, expired passports too can be presented for surrendering. Renunciation/Surrender Certificate will not be issued for Impounded, Revoked, Suspended, and Cancelled (against Re-issue) passports.

Q. Is it necessary to carry the Certificate of Renunciation of Indian Citizenship during travel to India?

A. No, it is not necessary for travelers to carry Certificate of Renunciation of Indian Citizenship during their travel to India.

Q. I have received my Renunciation Certificate and there is an error in passport No. / the spelling of my name/father's name. What should I do?

A. Please contact Consulate through email at surrender.vancouver@mea.gov.in regarding any correction/printing mistake etc. Consular officer will check your document and inform you about next course of action.

Q. Can I apply for Renunciation and visa together?

A. Yes

Q. Can I apply for OCI and Visa to together?

A. No. The Renunciation or surrender certificate is only provided when the required documents are attached along with the application. Incomplete applications are not processed. Therefore, you need a surrender certificate to apply for OCI.

Q. Is citizenship certificate necessary for the renunciation?

A. Yes, it is issued by the foreign government in the process of obtaining foreign passport.

Q. What is the grace period available for use of Indian passports after acquiring foreign citizenship?

A. Indian national who has acquired a foreign citizenship is allowed a grace period of 3 months of acquisition of foreign citizenship within which the Indian passport, if held, may be used for travel to India and back.

Note: For any further Query/Doubts on Renunciation please contact the Consulate through email surrender.vancouver@mea.gov.in
