



## Nationality Law – New Alterations

On 5th January 2024, the Portuguese Parliament approved new changes to be made to the Nationality Law, namely regarding the time limit for applying for nationality by residence, the granting of nationality to children and to the descendants of Portuguese Sephardic Jews.

One of the most eagerly awaited changes relates to the legal time limit for obtaining Portuguese nationality by naturalization, which depends on the applicant having been legally resident in Portugal for at least 5 years.

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### AUTHORS



VICKY RODRIGUES  
LAWYER



MÁRCIA ALVES FARIAS  
LAWYER



SANDRA ROQUE DOS SANTOS  
LAWYER



CÍNTIA MANTINHA  
TRAINEE



The draft law states that the time will start counting from the moment **the temporary residence permit was requested** (and not from the time the residency card was issued, as is the case presently), provided that the residency is then granted. This will not penalize applicants for delays in having their applications analyzed by Portuguese public authorities.

With regards to the attribution of nationality from parents to children, the Draft Law presents the possibility of obtaining original nationality for those who have reached the age of eighteen, in cases where the establishment of paternity occurs as a result of legal proceedings, after the judgement has become final.

In these cases, the application for nationality must be made within three years of the final judgement, which will start from the entry into force of the amendments to the nationality law in relation to cases of establishment of paternity that occurred before its entry into force.

As for descendants of Portuguese Sephardic Jews, in order to be granted Portuguese nationality, it will be necessary to demonstrate a tradition of belonging to a Sephardic community of Portuguese origin, based on proven objective requirements of connection to Portugal, namely surnames, family language, direct or collateral descent, as well as legal residence in Portugal for at least 3 years. There is also a system for assessing pending applications.

The final statute has not yet been published.