

Secretaria General
Direcció d'Administració General

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON REQUESTING BIRTH CERTIFICATES FROM THE BARCELONA MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR SPANISH NATIONALITY UNDER ACT 20/2022, OF 19 OCTOBER, ON DEMOCRATIC MEMORY.

The eighth additional provision of Act 20/2022, of 19 October, on Democratic Memory (BOE 20 October), establishes the requirements for acquiring Spanish nationality, and the Instruction of 25 October 2022, from the Directorate-General for Legal Security and Certification, on the right to Spanish nationality in accordance with the aforementioned legal provision, provides guidelines on the exercise and scope of this right, as well as the specific procedural rules for expediting the processing of requests submitted to Civil Registers.

For the purposes of interest here, we are listing only the cases covered by the Instruction on the right to Spanish nationality:

- Those born outside Spain, with at least one parent or grandparent who was originally Spanish.
- Those born outside Spain, with at least one parent or grandparent who was originally Spanish and who, as a consequence of having been exiled, lost or renounced their Spanish nationality.

Therefore, the degree of kinship giving the interested party the right to Spanish nationality extends as far as their grandparents.

The Instruction states that in these cases, the applicant must provide an official birth certificate of their parent or grandparent (the person originally of Spanish nationality), and in the case of a grandparent, they must also provide the official birth certificate of their mother or father (whichever has a Spanish parent).

The Barcelona Municipal Civil Register, kept at the Municipal Contemporary Archive, is the archive where births, deaths and marriages occurring in Barcelona have been registered since 1835, a result of the regulation that established the obligation for city council secretariats to hold these registers. This register was in operation until the approval of Provisional Act 2/1870, of 17 June, on the Civil Register, which created this state-owned Register. This Act came into force on 1 January 1871.

Requests received by the Municipal Contemporary Archive in relation to the issue of birth certificates will only be for a grandparent of the applicant, as these certificates will only be for people born between 1835 and 1871, and owing to the time that has passed since then, can only be for this degree of kinship.

The applicant must submit a request to the City Council's General Register, in person or online, stating that the certificate is needed to apply for Spanish nationality, in accordance with Act 20/2022, of 19 October, on Democratic Memory, and provide the following documents:

- Document proving their identity.
- Official birth certificate of their mother or father (whichever has a parent with Spanish nationality), issued by the corresponding Civil Register.
- If the procedure is carried out by a representative, proof of their status as representative.