



15/09/2014

Declaration to conserve the Belgian Nationality

Who needs to make this declaration?

If you are a Belgian citizen:

- born outside Belgium after January 1, 1967;
- who has another nationality;
- and who did not reside in Belgium between the age of 18 - 28

You must, **before your 28th birthday**, sign a formal declaration at the Consulate General of Belgium where you are registered, stating that you want to keep your Belgian citizenship.

What to do if you are registered with this Consulate General

Please contact us several months before your 28th birthday to discuss your individual case and ascertain the need to make the declaration. The next step is assembling the necessary documents (see below) and send them to the Consulate. After approval of the documents by the Consulate and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels, an appointment will be scheduled for the signing of the declaration at the Consulate.

Which documents do you need when you are born in the United States

Please note that all submitted documents can not be older than 6 months at the time of the declaration.

- An Original or Certified True Copy of your Birth Certificate (the "long" or "extended" form, mentioning date and place of birth of parents) + Apostille attached (*).
- An Original certified translation (in Dutch, French, or German) + Apostille attached (*)
The official translator certifies that the translation is true, to the best of her/his knowledge, to the original. This declaration must be dated and signed in the presence of a local notary public. The signature of the notary public must then be legalized by the Secretary of State where the notary public holds office by means of the Apostille.
- A regular copy of your Belgian parent's passport and Alien Registration Card/ US visa or Certificate of Naturalization;
- A regular copy of your US and Belgian passport;
- US Proof of address: Copy of your own driver's license /other picture ID stating your current address.
- A money order of \$28 for the certificates of nationality and residence issued by the Belgian Consulate. (made out to CONSULATE GENERAL OF BELGIUM)

Please take into account that it may take a number of weeks to obtain the Birth Certificate and the Apostille from the US authorities. If you are **not born in the USA**, please contact the Consulate general well in advance for advice.

(*) **IMPORTANT!!** Please note that all documents issued by this foreign authority need to be authenticated through the Apostille of the Department of State of the state where the document was issued. For documents of New York State, you also need to get a "certification" by the County Clerk prior to get the apostille. Authentication also applies to the translations of the documents.

For info: http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/legalisation_of_documents/ and on
<http://www.state.gov/m/a/auth/>