



BELIZE

**BELIZEAN NATIONALITY ACT
CHAPTER 161**

REVISED EDITION 2020

**SHOWING THE SUBSIDIARY LAWS AS AT
31ST DECEMBER, 2020**

This is a revised edition of the Subsidiary Laws, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws—

Page

1.	BELIZEAN NATIONALITY REGULATIONS	3
2.	BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (CESSATION OF CITIZENSHIP) (DAVID M. BANES) ORDER	29

3.	BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (DELEGATION) ORDER	30
4.	BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2018 (COMMENCEMENT) ORDER	31

CHAPTER 161

BELIZEAN NATIONALITY REGULATIONS

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

1. Citation.
2. Application for certificate of citizenship in case of doubt.
3. Grant of certificate.
4. Form of certificate.
5. Application for declaration of resumption.
6. Application for registration of spouse, widow or widower.
7. Registration as citizens.
8. Form of certificate.
9. Inclusion of minor children.
10. Oath.
11. Administration of Oath.
12. Illiterate persons.
13. Register.
14. Declaration of renunciation.
15. Declaration of retention.
16. Prescribed officer.
17. Form of application.
18. Fees.
19. Interpretation.

SCHEDULE I

SCHEDULE II

CHAPTER 161**BELIZEAN NATIONALITY REGULATIONS***[12th December, 1981]*

S.I. 100 of 1981.
 S.I. 90 of 1985.
 S.I. 57 of 1990.
 S.I. 24 of 1999.

Citation.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

BELIZEAN NATIONALITY REGULATIONS.

Application for
 certificate of
 citizenship in
 case of doubt.
 CAP. 161.

- 2.-(1) An application for a certificate under section 6 of the Act shall be sent to the Director of Immigration and Nationality Services, and the statements in that application shall be supported by affidavit.

(2) The application referred to in paragraph (1) shall, wherever possible, be accompanied by any documentary evidence available to prove the facts set out in the application and material to a decision of the entitlement of citizenship by descent.

(3) The application referred to in paragraph (1) shall be supported by two persons of whom each must be—

- (a) intimately acquainted with and have a personal knowledge of the applicant and his family; and
- (b) able from his personal knowledge and belief to vouch for the truth of the statements made by the applicant.

Grant of
 certificate.
 CAP. 161.

3. Before the Minister grants the certificate of citizenship referred to in section 6 of the Act, he may require an applicant for such certificate to supply such further information and proof as the Minister may think necessary.

4. A certificate of citizenship granted under section 6 of the Act, shall, as far as possible, be in accordance with Form A set out in Schedule I hereto, and such certificate shall not be issued until the prescribed fee is paid.

Form of
certificate.
CAP. 161.

Schedule I.

5.-(1) Every application for a declaration by the Minister under section 8—

Application for
declaration of
resumption.

(a) shall be sent to the Director of Immigration and Nationality Services, and the statement therein shall be supported by affidavit;

(b) shall, wherever possible, be accompanied by any documentary evidence in support of such facts set out in the application, as may be material for a determination of the question as to whether the applicant is entitled to resume the status of a citizen of Belize by descent; and

(c) shall be supported by two persons of whom each must be—

(i) intimately acquainted with and have a personal knowledge of the applicant and his family; and

(ii) able from his personal knowledge and belief to vouch for the truth of the statements made by the applicant.

(2) Before the Minister makes a declaration under section 8 he may require an applicant for such a declaration to furnish such further information and proof as may be necessary.

(3) A declaration of the Minister under section 8 of the Act shall as far as possible be in accordance with Form B set out in Schedule I hereto and shall not be issued until the prescribed fee is paid.

CAP. 161.

Schedule I.

Application for registration of spouse, widow or widower. Schedule I.

6.-(1) An application for registration under section 11 shall, as far as possible, be in accordance with Form G set out in Schedule I hereto.

(2) The prescribed officer for the purposes of section 11 shall be the Director of Immigration and Nationality Services.

Registration as citizens. CAP. 161.

7.-(1) The statements in any application for registration under section 10 or section 11 of the Act shall be supported by affidavit.

(2) An application for registration under the aforesaid section 10 or section 11 shall, wherever possible, be accompanied by any documentary evidence available to prove the facts set out in the application.

(3) Before the Minister allows an application for registration under the aforesaid section 10 or grants an application for registration under the aforesaid section 11 he may require the applicant to furnish such information and proof as the Minister may think necessary.

(4) An application for registration under the aforesaid section 10 or section 11 shall be supported by two persons, of whom each must be—

- (a) intimately acquainted with and have a personal knowledge of the family of the applicant's mother or of the spouse or of his father, as the case may be; and
- (b) able from his personal knowledge and belief to vouch for the truth of the statements made by the applicant.

8.-(1) Subject to regulation 18, a certificate of registration issued to a person registered under section 10 of the Act shall, as far as possible, be in accordance with Form C set out in Schedule I hereto, and such certificate shall not be issued unless the prescribed fee is paid.

Form of
certificate.
CAP. 161.
S.I. 57 of 1990.
Schedule I.

(2) Subject to regulation 18, a certificate of registration issued to a person registered under section 11 of the Act shall, as far as possible, be in accordance with Form C set out in Schedule I hereto, and such certificate shall not be issued unless the prescribed fee is paid.

S.I. 57 of 1990.
CAP. 161.
Schedule I.

9.-(1) Where a request is made by letter, for the inclusion of the name of a minor child in any certificate of registration granted under section 10 or section 11 of the Act, such letter shall contain the name, sex and date and place of birth of such child, and the statements therein shall be supported by affidavit.

Inclusion of
minor children.
CAP. 161.

(2) Where a person who has made an application for a declaration under section 8 makes, by subsequent letter, a request for the grant to any minor child of that person the status of a citizen of Belize by descent, he shall state in such letter the name, sex and date and place of birth of such child and those statements shall be supported by affidavit.

10. The oath or affirmation of allegiance shall be made before the grant of the certificate of registration.

Oath.

11. The oath or affirmation referred to in regulation 10 shall be administered by the Director of Immigration and Nationality Services.

Administration
of Oath.

12. Where a person is unable to read or write English, before the oath or affirmation is administered it shall be explained to him by the officer administering it.

Illiterate persons.

Register. **13.** A register of persons granted citizenship by registration shall be maintained in the office of the Minister, and shall, as far as possible, be in accordance with Form D set out in Schedule I hereto.

Schedule I.

Declaration of renunciation.
CAP. 161.
Schedule I. **14.-(1)** A declaration of renunciation of citizenship, under section 18 of the Act, shall as far as possible be in accordance with Form E set out in Schedule I hereto, and shall be sent to the Minister.

(2) The declaration referred to in paragraph (1) shall be supported by affidavit.

Declaration of retention.
CAP. 161.
Schedule I. **15.-(1)** A declaration of retention of citizenship under section 8 of the Act, shall, as far as possible be in accordance with Form F set out in Schedule I hereto, and shall be sent to the Minister.

(2) The declaration referred to in paragraph (1) shall be supported by affidavit.

Prescribed officer. **16.-(1)** For the purposes of section 11(2) and (3), the Director of Immigration and Nationality Services shall be the prescribed officer.

CAP. 161. (2) Where a person notifies renunciation of the citizenship of any other country to the prescribed officer in accordance with the requirements of section 18 or section 19 of the Act, the prescribed officer shall satisfy himself that such renunciation has been duly made and thereupon enter the fact of such renunciation in a register maintained for the purpose at the Ministry. Before the prescribed officer makes such entry in the register, he may require the person concerned to furnish such information and proof as he may think necessary.

Form of application.
CAP. 161. **17.** Every applicant for a certificate under section 6, or for a declaration under section 8, or for registration under section 10 of the Act, shall apply on the appropriate form, obtained from the Department of Immigration and Nationality Services.

18. A person to whom a certificate is granted under these Regulations shall pay a fee according to the rates specified and in the manner set out in Schedule II,

Fees.

Schedule II.

provided that the Minister may, in order to alleviate genuine hardship, waive or reduce the specified fees in the case of a person who has been continuously residing in Belize for a period of ten years or more immediately preceding the date of his application.

19. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation.

“Act” means the Belizean Nationality Act;

CAP. 161.

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for citizenship.

SCHEDULE I

FORM A

THE BELIZEAN NATIONALITY ACT

CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP OF BELIZE
GRANTED TO A PERSON WITH RESPECT TO WHOSE
STATUS AS A CITIZEN OF BELIZE A DOUBT EXISTS

CAP. 161.

Whereas.....with reference to whose status as a citizen of Belize a doubt exists, has duly applied to the Minister responsible for Nationality Services for a certificate of citizenship as provided for by section 6 of the Belizean Nationality Act alleging with respect to himself (herself) the particulars set out below—

Now therefore in pursuance of the powers conferred on him by the said section 6 and for the purpose of removing the said doubt the Minister responsible for Nationality Services certifies that the said.....is a citizen of Belize and declares that he is entitled to all political and other rights and powers and privileges and is subject to all obligations duties and liabilities to which a citizen of Belize is entitled or subject and has to all intents and purposes the status of a citizen of Belize.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name.

Date.....

Ministry responsible for Nationality Services

Director of Immigration and Nationality Services.

Particulars relating to Applicant

Full name:

Address:

Trade or occupation:

Place and date of birth:

Name and nationality of father:

Name and nationality of mother:

Claim to citizenship:

FORM B

THE BELIZEAN ACT

DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 8

CAP. 161. WHEREAS.....who ceased under section 18 or
 CAP. 161. 20 of the Belizean Nationality Act to be a citizen of Belize by
 descent has applied to the Minister for a declaration under
 section 8 of the Act that he may resume the status of a citizen of
 Belize by descent, alleging with respect to himself the
 particulars set out below—

AND WHEREAS the Minister is satisfied that the said has
 complied with the requirements of the said section 8—

Now THEREFORE, in pursuance of the powers conferred on
 him by the said section 8, the Minister responsible declares that,
 with effect from the date of this declaration, the
 said.....has resumed the status of a citizen of
 Belize by descent and that he is entitled to all political and other
 rights, powers and privileges and is subject to all obligations,
 duties and liabilities to which a citizen of Belize by descent is
 entitled or subject, and has to all intents and purposes, the status
 of a citizen of Belize by descent.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name.

Date.....

Ministry for Nationality Services Belmopan

Director of Immigration and Nationality Services

Particulars relating to applicant

Full name:

Address:

Trade or occupation:

Place and date of birth:

Name and nationality of father:

Name and nationality of mother:

Claim to citizenship by descent:

Particulars of renunciation of other nationality he possessed:
.....

Particulars of minor children:

Name:

Date and place of birth:

FORM C

BELIZEAN NATIONALITY ACT

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AS A CITIZEN OF
BELIZE

This certificate, which is valid only if it bears the embossed stamp of the issuing authority, confirms that the person named below has been registered as a citizen of BELIZE.

FULL NAME

NAME AT BIRTH

PLACE AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH

PERMANENT ADDRESS (IN FULL)

Particulars of minor children

Name.....Sex.....Date and place of
birth.....

(EMBOSSMENT SEAL)

ISSUED BY:.....MINISTER.....

.....

.....

*Month**Year*

FORM D

THE BELIZEAN NATIONALITY ACT

REGISTER OF CITIZENS BY REGISTRATION

	Certificate No. and date
	Application No. and date
	Name
	No. of children included in the certificate
	Section under which certificate is granted
	Date of issue
	Initials of issuing officer
	Date of oath or affirmation
	Remarks (Renunciation, loss, etc.)

FORM E

THE BELIZEAN NATIONALITY ACT DECLARATION
OF RENUNCIATION OF BELIZEAN CITIZENSHIP*[section 18]*

CAP. 161.

In pursuance of the provisions of section 18 of the Belizean Nationality Act, I,.....the undersigned, to whom the following particulars relate, being a citizen of Belize by descent/registration, hereby declare that I renounce my Belizean Citizenship.

Date:.....

Signature of declarant.....*Particulars of declarant*

1. Full name (in block letters):.....
2. Address:.....
3. Occupation:
4. Citizenship status:
5. If married, name and nationality of wife or husband:.....
6. Names of children:
7. Date and place of birth:

Affidavit of declarant

I.....do swear that

solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm

the foregoing particulars stated in the declaration, are true and that I have made the declaration, pursuant to section 18 of the Belizean Nationality Act that I renounce my Belizean citizenship. CAP. 161.

.....

Signature of declarant

Sworn

.....at.....this.....day
of.....,20.....

Before me:

Justice of the Peace or

Commissioner of Oaths

FORM F

THE BELIZEAN NATIONALITY ACT

DECLARATION OF RETENTION OF BELIZEAN
CITIZENSHIP*(section 8)*

CAP. 161.

In pursuance of the provisions of section 8 of the Belizean Nationality Act, I,.....the undersigned, to whom the following particulars relate, for the purpose of asserting my Belizean citizenship, hereby declare that I retain the status of a citizen of Belize by descent/registration.

Date:.....

.....

Signature of declarant

Particulars of declarant

1. Full name (in block letters):.....
2. Address:.....
3. Occupation:.....
4. Place and date of birth:.....

Certificate of registration of birth abroad No:.....

and date of issue:

5. Particulars of certificate of citizenship granted to father:
No):.....

Date of issue:.....

6. If married, name and nationality of wife or husband:

.....

7. Particulars of children:

FORM F (CONT.)

Affidavit of declarant

I doswearthat
solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm

CAP. 161.

the foregoing particulars stated in the declaration are true and
that I have made the declaration, pursuant to section 8 of the
Belizean Nationality Act that I retain the status of a citizen of
Belize by descent.

.....

Signature of declarant

Sworn

.....at this.....day
of....., 20.....

Before me:

.....

*Justice of the Peace**Commissioner of Oaths*

FORM G

Application No.....

Certificate No.....

THE BELIZEAN NATIONALITY ACT

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP
OF BELIZE BY REGISTRATION BY A PERSON WHO
POSSESSES THE SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS IN
SECTION 10 OR 12.

I, the undersigned, to whom the following particulars relate, hereby apply to the Minister for the grant of a Certificate of Citizenship of Belize by Registration under section 10/12 of the above Act. I declare that I am a person of full age and of sound mind and that I am, and intend to continue to be, ordinarily resident in Belize.

CAP. 161.

I also request that the following name(s) of my minor child(ren) be included in the Certificate of Registration which may be granted to me:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Date:

.....

Signature of Applicant

To be completed
in Block letters.

A. Particulars Relating to Applicant

1. Full name:.....
2. Address:
3. Occupation:
4. Date of birth:
5. Place of birth:
6. (a) Full name of father:
- (b) Date and place of his birth:
- (c) Nationality or citizenship status:
7. (a) Full name of mother:
- (b) Date and place of her birth:
- (c) Nationality or citizenship status:
8. Periods of applicant's residence in Belize:
 From.....to.....
 From.....to.....
 From.....to.....
 From.....to.....
 From.....to.....
9. Particulars regarding applicant's Nationality—

(a) Nationality acquired at birth:

(b) Nationality subsequently acquired (by marriage, naturalisation or otherwise):
.....

(c) Present nationality:

10. Particulars of minor children:

Name (in full)	Sex	Date of birth	Place of birth
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

B. Particulars Relating to Applicant's Spouse:

11. Date and place of marriage:.....

12. (a) Full name of spouse:

(b) Date and place of his (or her) birth:

(c) His (or her) usual place of residence:
.....

(d) His (or her) occupation:

13. If the spouse is a citizen of Belize by descent, state—

- (i) (a) Full name of spouse's father:.....
- (b) Date and place of his birth:.....
- (c) His usual place of residence:
- (d) His occupation:
- (ii) (a) Full name of spouse's paternal grandfather:
- (b) Date (or appropriate year) and place of his birth:
- (c) His usual place of residence:
- (d) His occupation:
- (iii) (a) Full name of spouse's paternal Great Grandfather:
- (b) Date (or approximate year) and place of his birth:
- (c) His usual place of residence:
- (d) His occupation:

* Particulars required herein need be furnished only by an applicant whose father-in-law was born in a country outside Belize

14. If the spouse is a citizen of Belize by registration state—
- (a) Number and Date of the Certificate of Registration:.....
 - (b) Previous Nationality:
 - (c) Whether the spouse has, at any time after registration, been absent from Belize for a period of five consecutive years or more.

(If so, state particulars and reasons for such absence abroad):

15. If the spouse is no longer alive at the time of application
state whether applicant has married again:

16. If the spouse is dead, give date of death:

C-Affidavit

(To be made by the applicant in support of the Application)

I do..... swear that

solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm

the foregoing particulars stated in this application are true; and
I make this statement conscientiously believing the same to be
true.

.....

Signature

Sworn

.....at.....this.....day.....of...
.....20.....

Affirmed

A Justice of the Peace

A Commissioner of Oaths

Before me:.....

D-Declarations by Persons Supporting Application

I,..... hereby state that I am a citizen of Belize, and that I am intimately acquainted with and have a personal knowledge of the applicant's spouse and his or her family over a period of years. I can from my personal knowledge and belief vouch for the truth of the statements made by the applicant.

.....

Signature

Full Postal Address:.....

Occupation:

Date:

* Insert full
name in BLOCK
letters

I, *.....hereby state that I am a citizen of Belize, and that I am intimately acquainted with and have a personal knowledge of the applicant's spouse and his or her family over a period of.....years. I can from my personal knowledge and beliefs vouch for the truth of the statements made by the applicant.

.....

Signature

Full Postal Address:.....

Occupation:

Date:

NOTE:

1. The statements in the application should be supported by an affidavit (Section C) made by the applicant before a Justice of the Peace or a Commissioner of Oaths.

2. There should be forwarded with the application any documentary evidence available to prove the facts set out therein, particularly those stated in Column 11, 12(b) and 13(i) (b) and 13(ii)(b) of section B.

3. The application should be supported by two persons (section D) each of whom must be—

(a) intimately acquainted with and have a personal knowledge of the applicant's spouse and his or her family; and

(b) able from his personal knowledge and belief to vouch for the truth of the statements made by the applicant.

4. The applicant may be required by the Minister to supply such further information and proof as the Minister may think necessary.

5. The prescribed fee is payable before the issue of a certificate under section 11.

6. Under section 26(1) of the Belizean Nationality Act, a person who is a citizen of any country other than Belize under any law in force in that country cannot be granted citizenship by registration unless he renounces citizenship of that country in accordance with that law.

CAP. 161.

7. A person who, for the purposes of procuring anything under this Act, makes any statement which he knows to be false in a material particular commits an offence which is punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months.

8. The application should be sent to the Director of Immigration and Nationality Services.

S.I. 24 of 1999.

SCHEDULE II

<i>Matter in which fee may be taken</i>	<i>Amount of fee</i>	<i>To whom fee is to be paid</i>
Registration as a citizen of Belize under section 10 or section 11	\$300.00	To the Accountant General for the general revenue
Inclusion of the name of a minor child by subsequent letter under section 12	\$100.00 per child	To the Accountant General for the general revenue
Certificate of citizenship in case of doubt under section 6	\$100.00	To the Accountant General for the general revenue
Resumption of citizenship by descent under section 8	\$40.00	To the Accountant General for the general revenue

CHAPTER 161

**BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (CESSATION OF
CITIZENSHIP) (DAVID M. BANES) ORDER**

S.I. 83 of 2015.

(section 21(1)(c))

[18th November, 2015]

1. This Order may be cited as the

**BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (CESSATION OF
CITIZENSHIP) (DAVID M. BANES) ORDER.**

2. WHEREAS it appears to me that David M. Banes, also known as David Miguel Nanes, and as David Miguel Nanes Schnitzer, who was registered as a citizen of Belize as evidenced by Certificate of Registration as a Citizen of Belize No. 28293/12, dated 17th November, 2012, was so registered by means of fraud, false representation, and the concealment of material circumstances and by mistake, I do declare that the above mentioned David M. Banes, shall hereby cease to be a citizen of Belize.

MADE by the Minister this 18th day of November, 2015.

(GODWIN HULSE)

*Minister responsible for Immigration
and Nationality
Minister of Natural Resources and
Immigration*

CHAPTER 161**BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (DELEGATION) ORDER****ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS**

1. Citation.
 2. Delegation of functions.
-

CHAPTER 161

S.I. 50 of 2016.

BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (DELEGATION) ORDER*(section 21A)**[28th May, 2016]*

Citation.

1. This Order may be cited as the

**BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (DELEGATION)
ORDER.**Delegation of
functions.

CAP. 161.

2. The Minister hereby delegates to the Minister of State, appointed to assist him, the exercise of powers and performance of functions conferred upon the Minister under sections 10 and 16 of the Act (which provisions relate to registration as citizen and grant of certificate of registration).

MADE by the Minister responsible for Immigration on this 18 day of May, 2016.

(SEN. GODWIN HULSE)

*Minister of Natural Resources and Immigration
(Minister responsible for Immigration)*

CHAPTER 161

**BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2018
(COMMENCEMENT) ORDER**

ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

1. Citation.
2. Commencement of Act No. 9 of 2018.

CHAPTER 161

**BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2018
(COMMENCEMENT) ORDER**

S.I. 67 of 2018.

(section 8)

1. This Order may be cited as the *[13th October, 2018]*

Citation.

**BELIZEAN NATIONALITY (AMENDMENT)
ACT, 2018 (COMMENCEMENT) ORDER.**

2. **I, GODWIN HULSE**, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration, hereby appoint the 16th day of May, 2018, as the day on which the Belizean Nationality (Amendment) Act, 2018 (No. 9 of 2018), shall come into force.

Commencement
of Act No. 9 of
2018.

Made by the Minister this 1st day of October, 2018.

(HON. GODWIN HULSE)

*Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the
Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration*
