

81. Vatican City

ACT OF 7 JUNE 1929¹ RELATIVE TO CITIZENSHIP AND SOJOURN.

CHAPTER I. CITIZENSHIP

1. The following persons are citizens of the Vatican City:

(a) The Cardinals residing in that City or in Rome;

(b) Any person who has his fixed residence in the Vatican City by reason of some dignity, appointment, office or employment, if such residence is required by law or regulation, or authorized by the Supreme Pontiff and for him by the Cardinal Secretary of State, in the case of a person in any way attached to the Pontifical Court or to any office mentioned in article 2 of the fundamental law of the Vatican City, and by the Governor, in the case of any other person;

(c) Any person not covered by the foregoing two subparagraphs who is authorized by the Supreme Pontiff to have his fixed residence in the Vatican City if the Supreme Pontiff in his discretion grants him, or allows him to retain, citizenship of the Vatican City.

2. The following persons are likewise Vatican citizens: the wife, children, ascendants, and brothers and sisters of a Vatican citizen, provided that they are living with him and are authorized to reside in the City of the Vatican, according to the rules laid down in the following articles.

3. The authorization referred to in the foregoing article is given by the Supreme Pontiff and for him by the Cardinal Secretary of State in the case of a person in any way attached to the Pontifical Court or to any office mentioned in article 2 of the fundamental law of the Vatican City, and by the Governor, in the case of any other person.

4. For the purpose of the authorization relating to the wife and children the production of evidence of the relationship shall suffice.

The authorization shall cease to be effective by operation of law:

(a) For the wife, if the marriage is annulled or dissolved or if a separation order has been made;

(b) For the sons, when they attain the age of twenty-five years, unless they are disabled and necessarily dependent on the Vatican citizen;

(c) For the daughters when they marry.

The sovereign powers of the Supreme Pontiff under article 1, subparagraph (c), and article 16, as also those of the Governor, under article 17, remain unaffected.

5. The authorization referred to in article 3 with respect to ascendants, brothers and sisters, may not be given unless the aforesaid relatives are dependent on the Vatican citizen for their maintenance and he is bound to support them.

The authorization shall cease to be effective by operation of law in the case of brothers when they attain the age of twenty-five years unless they are disabled, and in the case of sisters when they marry.

In every case the powers mentioned in the last paragraph of the previous article remain unaffected.

6. Vatican citizenship is lost:

(a) By a Cardinal if for any reason he discontinues his residence in the Vatican City or in Rome;

¹ Translation by the Secretariat of the United Nations.

(b) By any citizen if by some voluntary act he discontinues his residence in the Vatican City;

(c) By a person to whom article 1, subparagraph (b), applies, if he retires from the dignity, position, office, or employment by reason of which he was directed or authorized to reside in the City itself;

(d) By any Vatican citizen whose residence in the aforesaid City depends on the authorizations named in the foregoing articles, when the authorization itself ceases to be effective by operation of law pursuant to the said articles or when the authorization is revoked.

For the purpose of the maintenance of residence in or the retention of the citizenship of the Vatican City, the powers indicated in the last paragraph of article 4 remain unaffected.

7. Since the limited area of the Vatican City does not permit all the descendants and relatives of Vatican citizens with their new families to reside in the City itself, the Supreme Pontiff, for the purpose of promoting the creation of new families and the procreation of children, reserves for himself the right in each case and in his unquestionable sovereign judgment, to take measures for the new families that must leave the Vatican City, such measures to include, if he sees fit, the letting, on favourable terms, of the apartments owned by the Holy See in the territory of the Kingdom of Italy.

8. Vatican citizenship is not lost through the mere fact of a temporary stay elsewhere unaccompanied by relinquishment of the dwelling in the Vatican City, or in the case of Cardinals, of their residence in Rome, or by other circumstances proving that the residence has been discontinued.

9. The authorizations referred to in this chapter may be revoked at any time subject to fair previous notice unless reasons of public order, service, morality or discipline demand immediate action.

10. The Governor shall keep a register of Vatican citizens in which shall be entered:

(a) The names of the Vatican citizens referred to in article 1, subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c), giving the title by which they hold the aforesaid status;

(b) The authorizations granted under this chapter;

(c) The revocation of any such authorization;

(d) The declarations of voluntary discontinuance of fixed residence;

(e) Evidence of the loss of Vatican citizenship owing to any other reason whatsoever.

11. Vatican citizens must provide themselves with an identification card to be issued by the Governor in accordance with a procedure to be established by regulations. Upon producing the aforesaid card they may leave and enter the Vatican City without any other formality.

The Cardinals who are Vatican citizens, and their suites, the Governor and such other persons as will be named in the regulations, are exempted from the obligation to provide themselves with an identification card.