

RESUMPTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP

A person who has lost or renounced his or her South African citizenship may apply for resumption at any [regional or district office of the Department of Home Affairs in the Republic of South Africa](#).

Please note that to qualify, former South African citizens by birth or descent must have returned to the Republic of South Africa permanently. Former South Africans by naturalisation or registration must have a valid permanent residence permit or exemption from such permit and must have taken up permanent residence in the Republic.

General information about South African citizenship is available on the website of the Department of Home Affairs: <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/civic-services/citizenship>.

REINSTATEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP

The Constitutional Court (ConCourt) in *Democratic Alliance v Minister of Home Affairs and another* (**CCT 184/23**) [**2025**] **ZACC 8: BCLR 779 (CC); 2025 (4) SA 323 (CC) (6 MAY 2025)**, in confirming the order of constitutional invalidity of the Supreme Court Appeal, declared that section 6(1)(a) of the South African Citizenship Act, 1995 (Act No. 88 of 1995) (the “Act”) is inconsistent with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (the “Constitution”) and, therefore, invalid from its promulgation on 06 October 1995. The ConCourt further declared that those citizens who lost their citizenship by operation of section 6(1)(a) of the Act, are deemed not to have lost their citizenship.

To ensure compliance with the ConCourt judgement, the Department of Home Affairs (Department) has launched a dedicated online portal in line with the Department’s vision for digital transformation for persons who are or have been adversely affected by the unconstitutionality of the provisions contained in the Act

Affected South Africans may now lodge an online application to confirm citizenship status or initiate the reinstatement process. It is important to note that this will only apply to those persons who have lost their citizenship on or after 06 October 1995.

Affected South Africans can begin the process by visiting myhomeaffairsonline@dha.gov.za.

South Africans who wish to acquire citizenship of another country may lodge an application without retention letter (DHA 1664 Form), as it is no longer required.

Any enquiries regarding the above, they may direct such queries to the following email address: hacc@dha.gov.za or call the Departmental Call Centre number: 0800 6011 90.