



Home Office

British protected persons

Version 1.0

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About this guidance

This guidance tells Nationality caseworkers about British protected persons.

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you or you think that the guidance has factual errors then email the Nationality Policy team.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance then you can email the Guidance Rules and Forms team.

Publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was published:

- version **1.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **14 July 2017**

Changes from last version of this guidance

This is new guidance.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Recognition as British protected persons

This page gives an overview of British protected person status.

British protected persons

An individual will automatically be a British protected person (BPP) where:

- they were a citizen or national of Brunei
- immediately prior to 1 January 1983, they were a BPP by virtue of The British Protectorates, Protected States and Protected Persons Order in council 1978
- they would otherwise be born stateless, on or after 1 January 1983, in the UK or a dependent territory and at the time of their birth either or both of their parents is a BPP

Registration as a BPP

It is not normally possible for someone who is not already recognised as a BPP to be recognised as such, however there may be some rare cases where someone may be registered as a BPP.

BPP status can be obtained where an individual meets the following requirements:

- either or both of their parents were a BPP when the individual was born
- they were born in the UK or an overseas territory
- they are stateless and always have been
- they have not previously renounced BPP status

Applications for registration must be passed to a deputy chief caseworker in the first instance.

BPP status

BPP's are subject to the immigration laws and must therefore obtain leave to remain in an appropriate route if they want to reside, work or study in the UK.

As British nationals they are able to obtain a passport as a BPP and are entitled to consular support and protection from UK diplomatic posts.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Loss of British protected person status

This page tells you about when British protected person (BPP) status is lost.

BPP status was lost:

- on independence
- if the individual become a citizen or national of another country- from 1 January 1983, this includes where they become a British citizen, a British overseas territories citizen or a British overseas citizen

Loss of status at independence

Independence legislation for places under protection normally provided for the automatic loss of the status of BPP. BPP status was normally lost either at independence or a later date, of the newly independent country or the country of which the territory forms part. Examples of this include Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia and Sierra Leone.

BPP status lost automatically was not regained if subsequent legislation in the country concerned had the effect of retrospectively withdrawing a person's new citizenship from the date of independence.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Renunciation of status

This page tells you who can renounce British protected person (BPP) status.

A BPP can renounce their status if they meet the following requirements:

- they are not a BPP through their connection with Brunei
- they either:
 - have some other citizenship or nationality, including another form of British nationality
 - satisfy you that they will acquire some other citizenship or nationality on renunciation

BPP status cannot be resumed by someone who has previously renounced BPP status.

Deprivation of status

A person can be deprived of British protected person (BPP) status if:

- the Home Secretary is satisfied that deprivation is conducive to the public good
- BPP status was obtained by registration on the basis of fraud, false representation or concealment of material fact

Further information can be found in the deprivation guidance.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Registration of a BPP as a British citizen

This page tells you how a British protected person (BPP) can become a British citizen.

A British protected person can register as a British citizen under the following provisions of the [British Nationality Act 1981](#), if they meet the statutory requirements:

- section 4(2)
- section 4(5)
- section 4B

See the guidance on registration of British nationals.

Related content

[Contents](#)