

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
PHILADELPHIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO SPECIAL ASSISTANT
TO ATTORNEY GENERAL IN CHARGE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
AND REFER TO FILE NUMBER

Franklin Trust Building

November 11, 1942

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Miss Ryo Morikawa
4219 Berkeley Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Miss Morikawa:

Reference is made to your attached letter of October 13, 1942, in which you request information concerning the citizenship status of an American who marries a Japanese citizen.

Since March 3, 1931, the marriage of an American citizen to a person not eligible to naturalization has had no effect upon the citizenship of the American spouse.

You state in your letter that you have been told that upon marriage you must reapply for citizenship in order to retain it. You are informed that such procedure will not be necessary since as stated above a native-born American does not lose citizenship upon marriage to an alien. The law regarding expatriation is set forth in the attached Form TN-114.

Sincerely yours,

Earl G. Harrison

Earl G. Harrison
COMMISSIONER

Enclosures



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
PHILADELPHIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO COMMISSIONER OF
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
AND REFER TO FILE NUMBER

as amended

The Nationality Act of 1940, which became effective on January 13, 1941, provides for the expatriation of nationals of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization, in the following manner:

Sec. 401. A person who is a national of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization, shall lose his nationality by:

(a) Obtaining naturalization in a foreign state, either upon his own application or through the naturalization of a parent having legal custody of such person: Provided, however, That nationality shall not be lost as the result of the naturalization of a parent unless and until the child shall have attained the age of twenty-three years without acquiring permanent residence in the United States: Provided further, That a person who has acquired foreign nationality through the naturalization of his parent or parents, and who at the same time is a citizen of the United States, shall, if abroad and he has not heretofore expatriated himself as an American citizen by his own voluntary act, be permitted within two years from the effective date of this Act to return to the United States and take up permanent residence therein, and it shall be thereafter deemed that he has elected to be an American citizen. Failure on the part of such person to so return and take up permanent residence in the United States during such period shall be deemed to be a determination on the part of such person to discontinue his status as an American citizen, and such person shall be forever estopped by such failure from thereafter claiming such American citizenship;

or

(b) Taking an oath or making an affirmation or other formal declaration of allegiance to a foreign state; or

(c) Entering, or serving in, the armed forces of a foreign state unless expressly authorized by the laws of the United States, if he has or acquires the nationality of such foreign state; or

(d) Accepting, or performing the duties of, any office, post, or employment under the government of a foreign state or politic

subdivision thereof for which only nationals of such state are eligible; or

(e) Voting in a political election in a foreign state or participating in an election or plebiscite to determine the sovereignty over foreign territory; or

(f) Making a formal renunciation of nationality before a diplomatic or consular officer of the United States in a foreign state, in such form as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State; or

(g) Deserting the military or naval service of the United States in time of war, provided he is convicted thereof by a court martial; or

(h) Committing any act of treason against, or attempting by force to overthrow or bearing arms against the United States, provided he is convicted thereof by a court martial or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Sec. 402. A national of the United States who was born in the United States or who was born in any place outside of the jurisdiction of the United States of a parent who was born in the United States, shall be presumed to have expatriated himself under subsection (c) or (d) of section 401, when he shall remain for six months or longer within any foreign state of which he or either of his parents shall have been a national according to the laws of such foreign state, or within any place under control of such foreign state, and such presumption shall exist until overcome whether or not the individual has returned to the United States. Such presumption may be overcome on the presentation of satisfactory evidence to a diplomatic or consular officer of the United States, or to an immigration officer of the United States, under such rules and regulations as the Department of State and the Department of Justice jointly prescribe. However, no such presumption shall arise with respect to any officer or employee of the United States while serving abroad as such officer or employee, nor to any accompanying member of his family.

Sec. 403. (a) Except as provided in subsections (g) and (h) of section 401, no national can expatriate himself, or be expatriated, under this section while within the United States or any of its outlying possessions, but expatriation shall result from the performance within the United States or any of its outlying possessions of any of the acts or the fulfillment of any of the conditions specified in this section if and when the national thereafter takes up a residence abroad.

(b) No national under eighteen years of age can expatriate himself under subsections (b) to (g), inclusive, of section 401.

Sec. 404. A person who has become a national by naturalization shall lose his nationality by:

(a) Residing for at least two years in the territory of a foreign state of which he was formerly a national or in which the place of his birth is situated, if he acquires through such residence the nationality of such foreign state by operation of the law thereof; or

(b) Residing continuously for three years in the territory of a foreign state of which he was formerly a national or in which the place of his birth is situated, except as provided in section 406 hereof.

(c) Residing continuously for five years in any other foreign state, except as provided in section 406 hereof.

Sec. 405. Section 404 shall have no application to a person:

(a) Who resides abroad in the employment and under the orders of the Government of the United States;

(b) Who is receiving compensation from the Government of the United States and residing abroad on account of disability incurred in its service.

Sec. 406. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 404 shall have no application to a person:

(a) Who shall have resided in the United States not less than twenty-five years subsequent to his naturalization and shall have attained the age of sixty-five years when the foreign residence is established;

(b) Who is residing abroad upon the date of the approval of this Act, or who is thereafter sent abroad, and resides abroad temporarily solely or principally to represent a bona fide American educational, scientific, philanthropic, religious, commercial, financial, or business organization, having its principal office or place of business in the United States, or an international agency of an official character in which the United States participates, for which he receives a substantial compensation;

(c) Who is residing abroad on account of ill health;

(d) Who is residing abroad for the purpose of pursuing studies of a specialized character or attending an institution of learning of a grade above that of a preparatory school, provided that such residence does not exceed five years;

(e) Who is the wife, husband, or child under twenty-one years of age of, and is residing abroad for the purpose of being with, an American citizen spouse or parent who is residing abroad for one of the objects or causes specified in section 405 or subsections (a), (b), (c), or (d) hereof;

(f) Who was born in the United States or one of its outlying possessions, who originally had American nationality, and who, after having lost such nationality through marriage to an alien, reacquired it.

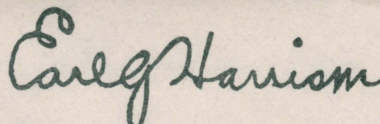
Sec. 407. A person having American nationality, who is a minor and is residing in a foreign state with or under the legal custody of a parent who loses American nationality under section 404 of this Act, shall at the same time lose his American nationality if such minor has or acquires the nationality of such foreign state: Provided, That, in such case, American nationality shall not be lost as the result of loss of American nationality by the parent unless and until the child attains the age of twenty-three years without having acquired permanent residence in the United States.

Sec. 408. The loss of nationality under this Act shall result solely from the performance by a national of the acts or fulfillment of the conditions specified in this Act.

Sec. 409. Nationality shall not be lost under the provisions of section 404 or 407 of this Act until the expiration of four years following the date of the approval of this Act: Provided, however, That a naturalized person who shall have become subject to the presumption that he has ceased to be an American citizen as provided for in the second paragraph of section 2 of the Act of March 2, 1907 (34 Stat. 1228), and who shall not have overcome it under the rules in effect immediately preceding the date of the approval of this Act, shall continue to be subject to such presumption for the period of four years following the date of the approval of this Act unless it is overcome during such period.

Sec. 410. Nothing in this Act shall be applied in contravention of the provisions of any treaty or convention to which the United States is a party upon the date of the approval of this Act.

Sincerely yours,



Earl G. Harrison
COMMISSIONER