

## Guide MN1: registration as a British Citizen - a guide about the registration of children under 18. Page 6.

### Automatic acquisition of British citizenship

Children who have automatically acquired British citizenship do not need to be registered.

There are two ways a child can automatically be a British citizen without needing to register.

#### 1 British citizenship otherwise than by descent

A child born in the UK to parents one or both of whom are

- British citizens, or
- are settled in the UK at the time the child is born, or
- members of the UK armed forces

is automatically a British citizen otherwise than by descent and does not need to be registered.

### British Nationality Act 1981 Part 1 (1A)

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the text of the British Nationality Act 1981, Part 1 (1A). The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/61>. The search bar contains the text "british nationality act 1981". The page content is as follows:

PART I  
BRITISH CITIZENSHIP  
*Acquisition after commencement*

1 **Acquisition by birth or adoption.**

(1) A person born in the United Kingdom after commencement **[F<sup>1</sup> or in a qualifying territory on or after the appointed day ]** shall be a British citizen if at the time of the birth his father or mother is—

(a) a British citizen; or

(b) settled in the United Kingdom **[F<sup>2</sup> or that territory].**

**[F<sup>3</sup> (1A)]** A person born in the United Kingdom or a qualifying territory on or after the relevant day shall be a British citizen if at the time of the birth his father or mother is a member of the armed forces.

(2) A new-born infant who, after commencement, is found abandoned in the United Kingdom **[F<sup>4</sup> or on or after the appointed day is found abandoned in a qualifying territory.]** shall, unless the contrary is shown, be deemed for the purposes of subsection (1) —

(a) to have been born in the United Kingdom after commencement **[F<sup>5</sup> or in that territory on or after the appointed day];** and

(b) to have been born to a parent who at the time of the birth was a British citizen or settled in the United Kingdom **[F<sup>6</sup> or that territory].**

(3) A person born in the United Kingdom after commencement who is not a British citizen by virtue of subsection (1) **[F<sup>7</sup>, (1A)]** or (2) shall be entitled to be registered as a British citizen if, while he is a minor—

(a) his father or mother becomes a British citizen or becomes settled in the United Kingdom; and

(b) an application is made for his registration as a British citizen.

**[F<sup>8</sup> (3A)]** A person born in the United Kingdom on or after the relevant day who is not a British citizen by virtue of subsection (1), (1A) or (2) shall be entitled to be registered as a British citizen if, while he is a minor—

(a) his father or mother becomes a member of the armed forces; and

(b) an application is made for his registration as a British citizen.