

# Criteria Changes to Acquisition of Japanese Nationality

The Nationality Act has been amended so that from January 1, 2009 a person whose paternity has been acknowledged by his/her father who is a Japanese national is able to acquire, by filing a notification, Japanese nationality **even if his/her parents are not married to each other.**

Those who were not able to acquire nationality before this amendment due to their parents' unmarried status can acquire Japanese nationality by filing a notification **by December 31, 2011.**

For details, please contact the relevant office as given below.

For people residing in Japan  
The legal affairs bureau / district legal affairs bureau

For people residing abroad  
The Japanese embassy/consulate

**False notifications of parental acknowledgement or of nationality acquisition may be subject to punishment.**



# Acquisition of nationality in accordance with Article 3 of the amended Nationality Act

The amended act permits a person whose parents are not married to each other to acquire Japanese nationality through a notification to the Minister of Justice, provided that he/she meets the following requirements:

## Requirements for acquiring nationality

The person who intends to acquire nationality must:

- Be acknowledged legally by his/her father or mother,
- Be under 20 years of age,
- Not have previously been a Japanese national.
- The father/mother who acknowledged the person who intends to acquire nationality must have been a Japanese national when the person was born.

The father/mother who acknowledged the person must presently be a Japanese national (or must have been a Japanese national at the time of death, if he/she died).

## Notification Procedure

You (or a legal representative if you are under 15 years of age) must come in person to the relevant office and make the notification in writing.

## Offices where the notification should be made

If you are residing in Japan

The legal affairs bureau / district legal affairs bureau with jurisdiction over the area in which you reside

If you are residing abroad

The Japanese embassy or consulate

# Acquisition of nationality through this interim measure

If you fulfill the following conditions you will be able to acquire Japanese nationality by notifying the Minister of Justice **by December 31, 2011**.

- 1** You were born on or after January 2, 1983, your father was a Japanese national at the time of your birth, and you were legally acknowledged by your father before you reached 20 years of age. It is also required that your father is still a Japanese national at present (or was at the time of death if your father is deceased).
- 2** You submitted a notification to acquire nationality by June 4, 2008, but could not acquire nationality at the time due to your parents' unmarried status.
- 3** You are the child of a person who submitted a notification to acquire nationality by December 31, 2002, but your parent could not acquire nationality at the time due to his/her parents' unmarried status. (In this case, your parent must first acquire Japanese nationality by filing the notification given in the interim measure.)

For further details, please contact your local legal affairs bureau / district legal affairs bureau, or the Japanese embassy or consulate.

# False notifications of parental acknowledgement or of nationality acquisition may be subject to punishment.

You may be penalized if you make a false notification of acknowledgement stating that another person's child is your child, or if you make a notification of nationality acquisition using a false parental acknowledgement.

