INDIALAW

Citizenship and Residency Services

Citizenship and Residency Law Firm in India for Naturalization and Sponsorship

PRACTICE PROFILE • OCTOBER 2026

Overview

- Citizenship Assistance: Assistance in obtaining Indian citizenship through naturalization, registration, or descent, including complete documentation and liaison with relevant authorities.
- Naturalization and Sponsorship: Legal support for family-based or employer-sponsored immigration matters, including affidavits, declarations, and procedural compliance.

Key Professionals



Shiju P V
Managing Partner



K.P. Sreejith
Founder

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 **What do citizenship and residency services cover in the Indian context?**

These services cover acquisition of Indian citizenship through naturalization, registration, or descent under the Citizenship Act, 1955. They also include OCI card applications, residency permits, and family or employer sponsored immigration support with full documentation and liaison.

Q2 **When should someone engage a lawyer for Indian citizenship or residency matters?**

Early engagement is advisable before filing any application with the Ministry of Home Affairs or FRRO. Errors in timing, residency calculations, or document selection can trigger rejections or delays. Legal guidance is particularly valuable when dual nationality restrictions or renunciation timelines apply.

Q3 **Which Indian laws and authorities govern citizenship and residency applications?**

The Citizenship Act, 1955, and the Citizenship Rules, 2009, are the primary statutes. The Ministry of Home Affairs oversees policy, while District Collectors, FRRO, and Indian missions abroad handle specific filings. The Foreigners Act, 1946, and Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, also apply to residency permits.

Q4 **How long does the Indian citizenship by naturalization process typically take?**

Naturalization requires at least 12 years of residence in India, including 12 months immediately before the application. Processing by the MHA can take 12 to 36 months after filing. Timelines vary based on background verification, state government inputs, and completeness of the application.

Q5 **What documents are typically needed to begin a citizenship or residency application?**

Applicants generally need a valid passport, proof of residence in India, birth or descent certificates, marriage certificates if applicable, police clearance reports, and a sworn affidavit of intent. Employer sponsored cases also require sponsorship letters and company registration details.

Q6 **What common mistakes lead to rejection of Indian citizenship applications?**

Frequent errors include miscalculating the qualifying residency period, submitting inconsistent personal details across documents, missing the renunciation requirement for prior nationality, and filing with the wrong authority. Each of these can result in outright rejection or significant processing delays.

Related Practice Areas

Immigration Law | Document Legalization and Compliance | OCI/PIO and Long-Term Visa Services