

Verification of eligibility for applicants not yet 16 years of age

Introduction This policy outlines the relevant legislation and policy relating to applicants not yet 16 years of age.

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16 years of age

Section 8(1) Citizenship Act 1977 Section 8(1) of the Citizenship Act 1977 states that the Minister of Internal Affairs:

‘... may authorise the grant of New Zealand citizenship to any person, including a person who may be a New Zealand citizen by descent, who-

(a) has attained the age of 16 years’.

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16 years of age, Continued

When should an applicant fulfil the '16 years of age' requirement?

Section 8(1) of the Citizenship Act 1977 requires an applicant to satisfy the Minister of Internal Affairs that they have attained 16 years of age.

Provided an applicant has attained 16 years of age at the time Citizenship refers an application to the Minister, then the office should consider that the applicant fulfils the requirement.

Note:

The Minister has the authority to authorise a grant of citizenship to an applicant who is not yet 16 years of age at the time the application is referred to the Minister under section 9(1)(a) of the Act.

Section 9(1)(a)

General

Section 9(1)(a) of the Citizenship Act 1977 states that the Minister may authorise the grant of citizenship to an applicant 'who have not attained the age of 16 years'.

Applicants not yet 14 years of age

When the Minister considers an application under section 9(1)(a), the Minister may, by virtue of section 9(2), have regard to any of the section 8(2) requirements.

The Minister's general policy is that a minor should fulfil all section 8(2) requirements except:

- 8(2)(c) Good Character
 - 8(2)(d) Responsibilities and Privileges
 - 8(2)(e) English Language.
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Applicants not yet 16 years of age

- Use the following table to determine section 8(2) requirements to be met by applicants not yet 16 years of age.
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If applicant's parent(s)...	then an applicant applying under a...
are New Zealand citizens (or about to become New Zealand citizens)	3 year grant, is exempt from meeting the Ordinary Residence requirement.
	5 year grant, is exempt from meeting the Presence in New Zealand requirement.
are not currently New Zealand citizens (and are not about to become New Zealand citizens)	3 year grant, must meet the Ordinary Residence requirement.
	5 year grant, must meet the Presence in New Zealand requirement.

Legislation links

[Citizenship Act 1977](#)

[Citizenship Regulations 2002](#)

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