

A. People born abroad before 1947: Such people became Canadian citizens on April 17, 2009 only if they were born (i) of a Canadian born father, (ii) in wedlock and, (iii) were not yet 21 years old on January 1, 1947. But these people could not now pass any citizenship rights on to their born-abroad children, if those children had not yet become citizens.

B. People who were born abroad, from January 1, 1947 to February 15, 1977: Under the changes of April 17, 2009, such people became Canadian citizens, eligible for certificates of citizenship, if they had a parent who was born in Canada. But such people, too, were not allowed to now pass any citizenship rights on to their children if those children had not already become citizens. This was in keeping with the new principle about first-generation-born-abroad only.

C. People born abroad in the time from February 15, 1977 to April 17, 2009: Such people were Canadian citizens if they were born of a parent who was a Canadian citizen even if that parent was not born in Canada. However, if they were born in the time from February 15, 1977 and April 17, 1981, then there is a good chance that they lost their citizenship if they did not go through the retention process before turning 28. But if they were born after April 16, 1981 then they may still be able to get a certificate of citizenship, even now.

D. People born abroad after April 16, 2009: Such people (children) are Canadian citizens only if one of their parents was born in Canada. If they do not have a Canadian born parent then such children will have to become Permanent Residents (landed immigrants) before they can become Canadian citizens. Parents who are Canadian citizens, but born outside of Canada, can “sponsor” their children.

E. An Exception to the Rule: The rule about being eligible only if one was born of a Canadian born parent has an exception. If a person moved to Canada, became a Permanent Resident (landed immigrant) and received a grant of citizenship, and then moved away again and had a baby outside of Canada, then that baby is a Canadian citizen. This is a small exception.