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CIL - Country Information Library: Pakistan

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KEY INFORMATION: Fraud and corruption are widespread in Pakistan. This pervasiveness of unreliable information makes it difficult for an officer to be satisfied under IRPA, regrettably even when a genuine applicant presents genuine information. There are significant risks of all IRPA inadmissibility's in Pakistan, A34 through 42, inclusive.

- There are no rules, only common practices.
- The most common practice for family names is to add the father's given name at the end of a child's (boy or girl) name. For example, if the Father's name is Raza Aamir Khan and he named his son Ali, his sons name would likely then be Ali Raza.
- A second option is by adding a caste name at the beginning/end of a name. For example, if the above-named son was of the Chaudhary caste, his name could be Chaudhary Ali Raza, Chaudhary Ali, or even Ali Chaudhary.
- Pakistani Muslims belonging to the Shia sect usually add the names, Syed, Shah, Zaidi, Naqvi, Jafferri, Kazmi, Bokhari. For honour and respect they can add the names Ali, Hussain, Hussnain and Hassan at the end of the name. Syed and Shah can be used either at the beginning or end of a name, the other names are used at the end.
- It is possible that individuals from the same family have different names as per the above practices, since there are no specific rules or documentation for the registration of family names.

▼ Civil documents

- All civil documents in Pakistan are a significant fraud risk for immigration purposes.
- Computerized certificates for birth, marriage, divorce, and death include information in both Urdu and English, and are issued by Union Councils responsible for the person's neighbourhood of residence.
- All Union Councils started issuing computerized civil documents with counterfoils and computers provided by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) after implementation of Local Government Ordinance in 2002.
- A Child Registration Certificate (CRC) is a registration document used to register minors under the age of 18 years.
- Family Registration Certificates (FRC) are issued to nationals of Pakistan highlighting the family tree structure of the applicant.

Birth certificates / proof of parentage

- Issued by Union Councils or Cantonment Boards dependant on which office is responsible for the person's neighbourhood of residence.
- Registrations are largely based on hospital birth certificates. In case of late registrations, an affidavit of the parents or other blood relative can be submitted in the absence of a hospital certificate.
- There is no restriction of nationality or religion for registering a birth.

Acquisition of citizenship

Recognition of dual citizenship

- Only recognized for certain countries (UK, France, Italy, Belgium, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Switzerland, Netherlands, US, Sweden, and Ireland); otherwise secondary citizenship must be renounced at age 21.

By birth

- Any person born in Pakistan after the commencement of the Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951 is citizen of Pakistan.
 - Children of foreign diplomats and children of an enemy alien born in Pakistan are not included in this category.
 - Persons who migrated from territories of Pakistan to other areas of Indo-Pakistan sub-continent for permanent stay after March, 1947 are also be not considered citizens of Pakistan.
- Persons born in Pakistan, or whose parents or grandparents were born in the territories now included in Pakistan, and who had permanently resided in the country since August 14, 1947 are granted citizenship.

By descent

- A child of Pakistani parents who is born outside of Pakistan is a citizen.
- A child born after April 18, 2000 to a Pakistani mother and foreign national father, is treated as a citizen.

By migration

Persons who migrated to Pakistan from the territories in the indo-Pakistan subcontinent before the commencement of Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951 are citizens of Pakistan.

Links

Visit the [Directorate General of Immigration & Passports](#) website for more details.

Marriage certificates

- Four individual versions of the Nikah Namas (religious marriage certificates) are issued as the bride/groom sign them, meaning they are legally married.
 - Nikah Namas are then endorsed by Nikah Registrars appointed by Union Councils. A copy of the Nikah Nama is also submitted by the Marriage Registrar to the relevant Union Council thus maintaining a parallel record.
 - Afghan Refugees in Pakistan should present a Nikah Nama, if they have married in Pakistan. They often also present a marriage registration certificate from their nearest Afghan Embassy/Consulate.

- Union Councils register marriages under the Muslim Family Law Ordinance of 1961 (MFLO) that applies to all Muslim Citizens of Pakistan (except in Kashmir). Non-Muslims register their marriages in their respective community offices/churches. For example, Ahmadi marriages/divorces are registered in their central office in Rabwa, Pakistan, while Christian marriages are registered in and by a church.
- Most often, Muslim marriages are registered with the Union Council responsible for the bride's area of residence.
- In Azad Kashmir, marriages are registered with the Mufti office as per the Act of 1985.
- The minimum legal age for marriage is 18 for men and 16 for women.
- Polygamous unions are permitted under law, but only to Muslim men. For other religions, the law is silent and polygamous marriages do exist in law and/or practice for other faiths.
- Proxy marriages are legally valid in Pakistan. They are, however, excluded under IRPA.
- Same sex relationships are prohibited.

Divorce certificates

- Muslim divorces are registered with Union Councils under the Muslim Family Law Ordinance of 1961, or in Azad Kashmir, from the District Mufti.
- The husband or wife sends the notice of divorce to the local Union Council or Family Court (respectively) to start the legal civil registration process.
- A divorce initiated by a woman is called a Khula (rare), and called a Talaq when initiated by a man.
- The Union Council or Arbitration council issues 3 notices of failure of reconciliation. After the failure of the Arbitration Council's efforts to reconcile the two parties during the 90 days, then the divorce will be effective and the Union Council office would issue a divorce registration certificate.
- Iddat— a period of 90 days a female must wait before being allowed to marry another man after the effectiveness of the divorce.
- For Shia divorces, if both parties agree, then an Iddat period is not required. In the absence of the proclamation by the Shia Maullana, the divorce would have to adhere to the 3 notifications and observe the 90-day Iddat period.
- Non-Muslim divorces should be registered with their respective community office.
- In the case of Christians, where a divorce has been granted by a civil court, copies of the order can be obtained from the court.

Death certificates

- Registered at the local Union Council responsible for the residential address of the deceased person.
- No restriction of nationality or religion for registering a death.
- Deaths should be registered promptly with the civil authorities. According to Muslim tradition, burials should take place promptly, usually within 48 hours of the death.
- Registered based on hospital death certificates, burial proofs from the graveyard, or affidavits of close relatives.

- If a person died at the hospital or the dead body is examined at the hospital then the hospital issues a death certificate. A slip will then be issued by the graveyard committee mentioning the details regarding burial. These two documents are always issued in a timely manner. On the basis of this / these document(s), the death will be registered with the relevant Union Council. There are occasions where people do not register a death with the relevant authorities until such a time when one is required.
- If the person dies away from their home, a death certificate should be issued by the hospital in the city where the death occurred, and then that death certificate should be presented to the Union Council where the deceased lived, for registration of the death.

Notarized documents

- Notarization of a document is not considered to add value or authenticity to a document. Among other reasons, this is linked to significant levels of corruption.
- As a formality, some departments such as banks, police, and revenue require affidavits and agreements to be notarized.

▼ Police certificate

- Fraudulent or fraudulently-obtained police certificates are a significant risk in Pakistan.
- For more Police Certificate information and examples, please visit the [Police Certificate Image Library](#).

▼ Education documents

- Even when a document is confirmed as genuine, it does not mean it was not fraudulently-obtained.
- The use of fraudulent academic documents is widespread, even (as published in local media and as examples of a wider trend), by lawmakers and airline pilots.
 - 33% of Educational Documents verified by the RAU in 2015 in Islamabad were confirmed to be fraudulent (25/76). This is consistent with levels from previous years.
- A document's authenticity may be verified at the [Higher Education Commission](#).
- Pakistan's academic institutions and credentials are generally not considered to be Canadian-equivalent. For additional information on academic credentials assessment, visit [CICIC](#).

▼ Financial documents