



Lithuanian Citizenship Document Checklist

What you need to restore Lithuanian citizenship by descent – and keep your current passport.

Free to share. Know someone with Lithuanian roots? Send them this file.

The three things you need to prove

Citizenship

Your ancestor was a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania before **June 15, 1940**.

Descent

You are a direct descendant – child, grandchild or great-grandchild – of that person.

Departure

For **dual citizenship**: your ancestor left Lithuania before **March 11, 1990**.

1. Your own documents

- ☐ Valid passport (copy of the photo page)
- ☐ Your full / long-form birth certificate showing both parents
- ☐ Marriage certificate or name-change document, if your current name differs from your birth name

2. The family chain

- ☐ Full birth certificate of every generation between you and your Lithuanian ancestor
- ☐ Marriage certificates wherever a surname changed (e.g. a grandmother who took her husband's name)
- ☐ Death certificates – optional, but often helpful to confirm identity and dates
- ☐ Records that explain different spellings of the same name (baptism records, census entries, obituaries)

3. Proof of your ancestor's Lithuanian citizenship (before June 15, 1940)

- ☐ Interwar Lithuanian passport – internal or foreign – or a copy from the archives
- ☐ Lithuanian archive records: military service records, voter lists, civil or church registry entries naming the person a Lithuanian citizen (*Lietuvos pilietis*)
- ☐ Foreign records stating Lithuanian nationality: naturalization papers, passenger lists showing a Lithuanian passport, alien or immigrant registration
- ☐ No Lithuanian documents at home? An archive search in Lithuania is usually the next step

4. Proof of departure before March 11, 1990 (for dual citizenship)

- ☐ Arrival record or passenger list in the new country
- ☐ Naturalization certificate, petition or declaration of intention
- ☐ Residence or refugee documents from the new country (e.g. post-war displaced persons papers)

5. Legalization and translation

- ☐ Apostille on every foreign public document (see the table below)
- ☐ Translation of every foreign document into Lithuanian
- ☐ Copies of everything kept in one place – originals can take months to replace

Who issues the apostille?

United States	Secretary of State of the issuing state; U.S. Department of State for federal documents
Canada	Global Affairs Canada or the competent province
United Kingdom	FCDO Legalisation Office
Australia	DFAT (Australian Passport Office)
Brazil	Authorized cartórios
Argentina	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (online via TAD) or Colegio de Escribanos
Israel	Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Magistrates' Courts
South Africa	DIRCO Legalisation Section or the High Court

Tips that save months

1. Order full (long-form) certificates – short versions usually omit the parents' names that link the generations.
2. Different spellings of a name are common and can usually be explained with additional records.
3. Records giving "Russia" or "Poland" as the country of birth do not end a case – before 1918 Lithuania was occupied by the Russian Empire (until 1915) and Germany (1915–1918).

FREE CONSULTATION

Not sure which documents you need?

Book a free 15-minute consultation. Tell us what you know about your Lithuanian ancestor and which documents your family has – we will tell you whether your case looks viable and what to request next. Most cases are handled fully remotely.

[Check your eligibility for free →](#)

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